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Rhombognathine Mites (Acari: Halacaridae) from Hokkaido, Northern Japan

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Abstract A total of 16 species of mites in the subfamily Rhombognathinae (Acari: Halacaridae) are recorded from Hokkaido, northern Japan. Five *Isobactrus* and six *Rhombognathus* new species are described, viz. *Isobactrus dentatus* sp. nov., *I. gryposetus* sp. nov., *I. hamatus* sp. nov., *I. latistriatus* sp. nov., *I. tuberculatus* sp. nov., *Rhombognathus compressus* sp. nov., *R. incertus* sp. nov., *R. medialis* sp. nov., *R. neotenus* sp. nov., *R. tenuiformis* sp. nov. and *R. teurinus* sp. nov. Two *Rhombognathus* species new to Japan, *R. leurodactylus* Krantz, 1976 and *R. sinensis* Bartsch, 1990, are described on the basis of Japanese specimens. Three known species, *R. atuy* Abé, 1990, *R. dissociatus* Abé, 1990 and *R. ezoensis* Abé, 1990, are redescribed on the basis of the paratype specimens. Key to the species and notes of habitats and distributional range for each species are presented. Their occurrence on various substrates in Hokkaido is examined by a correspondence analysis. The analysis indicates no distinct association of rhombognathine species with substrates in Hokkaido.

Introduction

The rhombognathine mites are small free living mites commonly found in coastal sea waters of the world. There is rich information on the rhombognathine fauna in the North Atlantic and related seas (Trouessart, 1889a, b; Lohmann, 1889, 1893; Viets, 1927a, b, 1936, 1939, 1940; André, 1946; Sokolov, 1952; Bartsch, 1972, 1975a, b, 1979a; Green & Macquitty, 1987). On the other hand, only a few works exist on the North Pacific fauna: Newell (1947), Sokolov (1952) and Abé (1990b) referred to the western North Pacific fauna, and Krantz (1976) to the eastern fauna. In the adjacent waters of Japan, there are only two reports on the species of this subfamily: Sokolov (1952) described two species of the genus *Rhombognathus* from the Japan Sea coast in Russia; Abé (1990b) reported three *Rhombognathus* species from the coast of Hokkaido, northern Japan.

The present paper aims to fill in the gap of faunal knowledge in the North Pacific. I describe 13 species newly recorded from the area and give a key to all the known species and notes of their distributional pattern and habitat preferences.

Materials and Methods

All the materials examined in the present study were collected during 1989 to 1993 at 56 localities on the coasts of the Japan Sea, the Okhotsk Sea, and the western North Pacific in Hokkaido, northern Japan (Fig. 1). Most samples were collected in the intertidal zone less than 0.5 m depth, and some samples were taken in the subtidal zone deeper than several meters. At each locality various substrates as algae, mussels, sand, stone, and organic detritus were taken by hand or by a dredge and a Smith-McIntyre Grab Sampler. The mites were extracted from the substrates by means of decanting and sieving, and were observed following the procedure formerly described by Abé (1990a) and Abé et al. (1993).

The following abbreviations are used in the description: AD, anterior dorsal plate; AE, anterior epimeral plate; aes-i, anterior epimeral seta(e) on coxa(e) of the first leg(s); aes-ii-lat (-v, -adj), lateral (ventral, adjunctive) seta(e) on coxa(e) of the second leg(s); AP, anal plate; ds-i-v, first to fifth dorsal seta(e); GA, genitoanal plate; GP, genital plate; OC, ocular plate(s); P-1-4, first to fourth

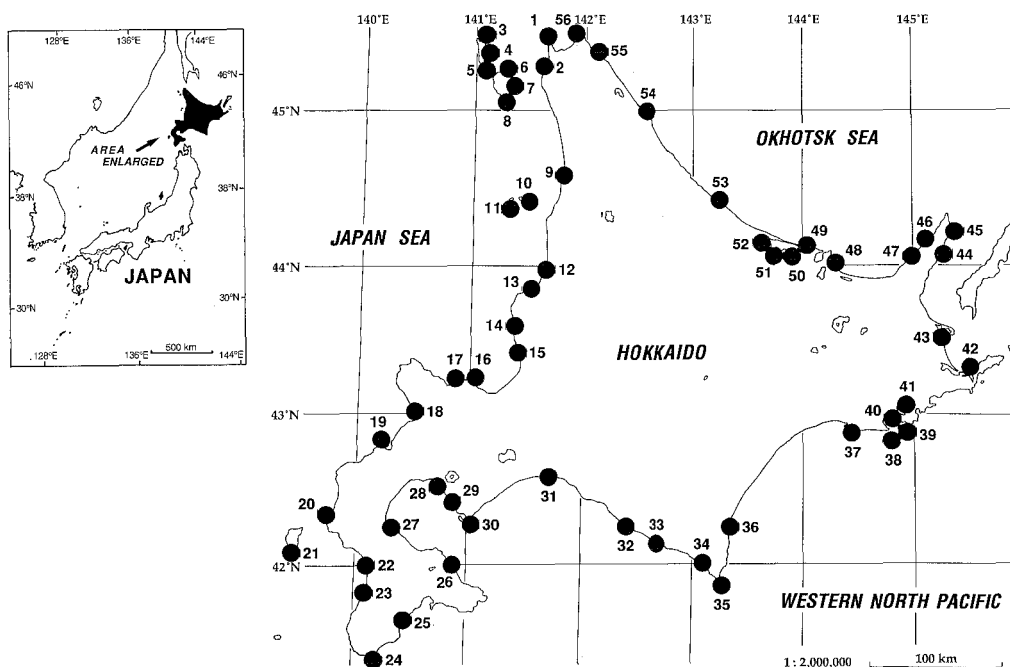


Fig. 1. Map showing the collecting sites in Hokkaido, northern Japan. 1, Wakkanai; 2, Bakkai; 3, Horodomari (Rebun Island); 4, Kabukai (Rebun Island); 5, Kabuka (Rebun Island); 6, Oshidomari (Rishiri Island); 7, Nozuka (Rishiri Island); 8, Oniwaki (Rishiri Island); 9, Shosanbetsu; 10, Teuri Island; 11, Yagishiri Island; 12, Rumoi; 13, Mashike; 14, Hamamasu; 15, Atsuta; 16, Shukutsu; 17, Oshoro; 18, Tomari; 19, Tateiwa; 20, Hutoro; 21, Aonae (Okushiri Island); 22, Tateura; 23, Kaminokuni; 24, Shirakami; 25, Kikonai; 26, Usujiri; 27, Yakumo; 28, Usu; 29, Date; 30, Muroran; 31, Tomakomai; 32, Shizunai; 33, Mitsuishi; 34, Samani; 35, Erimo; 36, Hiroo; 37, Kushiro; 38, Nakanose; 39, Daikoku Island; 40, Aininkappu; 41, Lake Akkeshi (with Bekanbe-ushi River); 42, Tōbai; 43, Odaitō; 44, Rausu; 45, Aidomari; 46, Utoro; 47, Oshinkoshin; 48, Masuura; 49, Tokoro; 50, Sakaeura; 51, Kimuanepu; 52, Barou; 53, Monbetsu; 54, Esashi; 55, Ōmisaki; 56, Sōya.

segment(s) of palp(i); PD, posterior dorsal plate; PE, posterior epimeral plate(s); pes-iii-lat (-v, -adj), lateral (ventral, adjunctive) seta(e) on coxa(e) of the third leg(s); pes-iv, seta(e) on coxa(e) of the fourth leg(s); pes-iv-a (-p), anterior (posterior) seta(e) on coxa(e) of the fourth leg(s).

The following abbreviations are used in the figure legends: Ds, dorsal view; L, left appendage or part; R, right appendage or part; Vr, ventral view. In addition, the following abbreviations are used in the figure 2: ADPL, anterior dorsal plate-length; ADPW, anterior dorsal plate-width; AEPL, anterior epimeral plate-length; AEPW, anterior epimeral plate-width; APW, anal plate-width; BCSL, basal cheliceral segment-length; GNL, gnathosoma-length; GNW, gnathosoma-width; GPL, genital plate-length; GPW, genital plate-width; IDL, Idiosoma-length; IDW, idiosoma-width; LGL, leg-length; MDL, movable digit-length; OCPL, ocular plate-length; PDPL, posterior dorsal plate-length; PDPW, posterior dorsal plate-width; PEPL, posterior epimeral plate-length; PLL, palp-length; ROL, rostrum-length.

The body parts are measured in the following format (Fig. 2): 1) Idiosoma: length - from the anterior most margin of anterior dorsal plate to the terminal end of anal papilla along longitudinal median axis; width - at the level of lateral coxal margin of leg III. 2) Plate, genital foramen, and spermatophorotype: length - from the anterior margin to the posterior margin along longitudinal

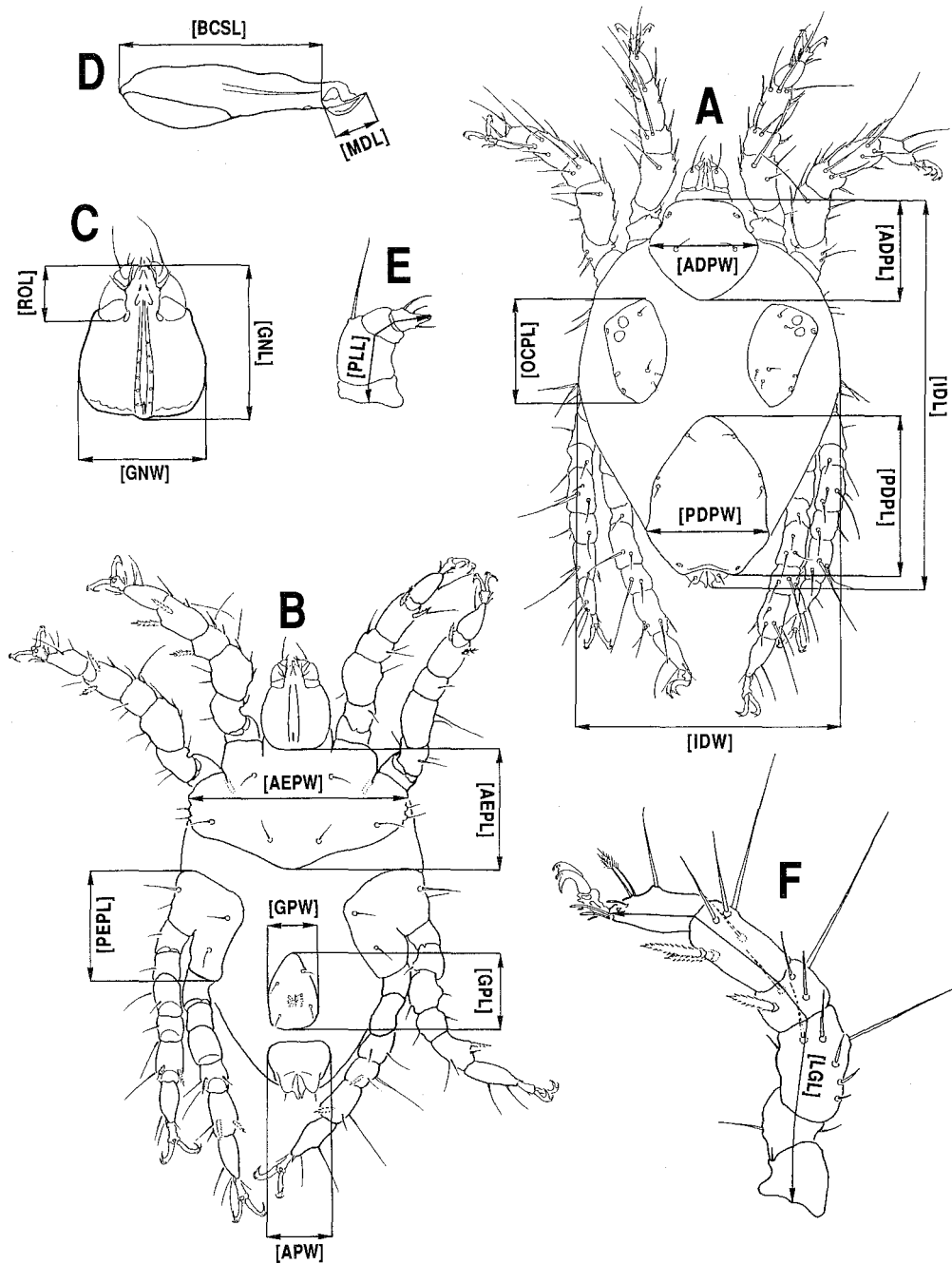


Fig. 2. Parts of body and legs measured. A, body (Ds); B, body (Vr); C, gnathosoma (Vr); D, chelicera; E, palp; F, leg. For abbreviations of measured parts, see text.

median axis; width - at the widest level. 3) Gnathosoma: length - from the anterior tip of rostrum to the posterior margin of the base of gnathosoma along longitudinal median axis; width - at the widest level. 4) Rostrum: length - from the anterior tip of rostrum to the level of the base of palpal insertions along longitudinal median axis. 5) Basal cheliceral segment: length - from the most proximal end of the segment to the base of the movable digit. 6) Movable digit: length - from the base to the distal end of the dorsal denticulate edge. 7) Palp: length - from the base of the trochanter to the distal end of the tibiotarsus along longitudinal median axis. 8) Leg: length - from the base of the trochanter to the distal end of tarsal claw fossa along longitudinal median axis.

The description of each species is based on a single specimen. Additional descriptions for the opposite sex and immatures are also provided, if possible.

The type specimens are deposited in the National Science Museum, Tokyo, and the United States National Museum, Washington, D.C. Some of the paratype specimens are retained in the author's private collection.

Metric characters are always given in micrometer (μm). Meristic characters are sometimes given as ranges (e.g. the number of accessory teeth). Leg chaetotaxy is expressed as "tibiae I-IV, 6-6-5-5" which means that the tibia of the first to the fourth legs have 6, 6, 5 and 5 setae respectively. The arrangement of subgenital setae is expressed as "arranged 2-1" which means that the anterior portion of genital sclerites has two pairs of setae, and the posterior portion has one pair of setae.

As regards the appendages, the terms "anterior," "posterior," "proximal," "distal," "dorsal" and "ventral" are used to express a position relative to the longitudinal axis of the appendage when the appendage projects from the body perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the body. The term "medial" is used to express a position near the longitudinal median axis in both the body and the appendages.

1. Description of the Rhombognathines in Hokkaido

Key to genera

1. Gnathosoma almost or completely concealed in dorsal view. Ocular plates not furnished with setae. Ventral plates developed only on each coxal region.
..... *Isobactrus* Newell, 1947
- Gnathosoma recognizable in dorsal view. Each ocular plate furnished with two setae. Ventral plates well developed in adults, occasionally fused into a single plate.
..... *Rhombognathus* Trouessart, 1888

Genus *Isobactrus* Newell, 1947

[Japanese name: Ojigidani]

Diagnosis. Each ocular plate without setae. One of two corneae completely reduced. Dorsal setae four or five pairs. Ventral plates usually reduced to small plates surrounding each coxae. Genital opening of the female ventrally placed. Perigenital setae of the female three pairs. Gnathosoma directed ventrally, concealed in dorsal view. Palpi four segmented. Tarsus I furnished with clavate solenidion and rudimentary famulus. Tarsus II with one clavate solenidion. Carpite moniliform proximally. All tarsi with two claws.

Key to species

- 1a. A conspicuous hook present on ventroproximal edge of claw-shaft. Accessory process not developed. *hamatus* sp. nov.
- 1b. A hook absent on claw-shaft. Accessory process developed. 2
- 2a. Costae well developed on dorsal plates. Accessory process bearing tiny single tooth. Basal fossary seta on each tarsus long and strongly bending at terminal end.
..... *gryposetus* sp. nov.

- 2b. Costae inconspicuous. Accessory process bearing several teeth. Basal fossary seta on each tarsus nearly straight. 3
- 3a. Membranous cuticle on dorsum clearly tuberculate. *tuberculatus* sp. nov.
- 3b. Membranous cuticle on dorsum not tuberculate. 4
- 4a. Membranous cuticle on dorsum thickly striated. Accessory process bearing several fine teeth. *latistriatus* sp. nov.
- 4b. Membranous cuticle on dorsum finely striated. Accessory process bearing several strong teeth. *dentatus* sp. nov.

***Isobactrus dentatus* sp. nov.**

[Japanese name: Kumade-ojigidani]

(Figs. 3-6)

Type series. Holotype: Female, among *Mytilus edulis* on ledge, intertidal, Oshoro (Kabuto Rock), Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 22.iii.1989, H. Abé coll. Allotype: Male, data same as the holotype. Paratypes: 3 females and 3 males, data same as the holotype; 1 deutonymph, among *Lomentaria hakodatensis* on exposed boulders, intertidal, Shukutsu, Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 27.x.1993, H. Abé coll.

Female (holotype)

Idiosoma 372 μm long, 248 μm wide. Color in life dark green with a fine dorsal semitransparent line longitudinally.

Dorsum (Fig. 3A): Dorsal plate ornamented with weak panels (Fig. 3C). Dorsal membranous cuticle strongly striated, not tuberculate, furnished with three pairs of subsurface pores between AD and PD. AD and PD separated by interval of approximately PD-length. AD 94 μm long, 84 μm wide, concave posteriorly, ornamented with clear areolation and a pair of dorsal pores laterally. OC 48 μm long, furnished with one large cornea and two tiny polygonal pores. PD 142 μm long, 114 μm wide, furnished with a pair of small dorsal pores posteriorly. Costae not clear.

Chaetotaxy of dorsal region: Dorsal setae very short and faint except for ds-iii. Setae ds-i on AD; ds-ii each placed on membranous cuticle between AD and OC; ds-iii long and thick, each on membranous cuticle between AD and PD; ds-iv and ds-v on PD.

Venter (Fig. 3B): Epimeral plates weakly developed only on each coxal region. Epimeral region furnished with several subsurface pores medially, and with epimeral pore between insertions of leg I and leg II on each side.

Chaetotaxy of epimeral region: Epimeral setae placed on striated membranous cuticle except for pes-iii-lat. Setae aes-i located at level posteriorly to camerostome; aes-ii-lat placed at posterior to insertion of leg II; aes-ii-v placed most medially; pes-iii-lat placed dorsally on posterior epimeral plate of coxae III; pes-iii-v near medial margins of coxae III; pes-iv placed near coxae IV.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 4A): Genitoanal region surrounded with striated membranous cuticle. Genital foramen 60 μm long, 40 μm wide, occupying from the level of insertion of leg IV to level anterior to anal foramen. Genital sclerites band-shaped. One pair of very short, and two pairs of large internal genital acetabula are visible. Anal foramen placed terminally on membranous cuticle.

Chaetotaxy of genitoanal region: Three filiform perigenital setae located on each side of genital foramen as arranged in Fig. 4A. Subgenital setae short filiform; one pair on genital sclerites, arranged 1-0.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 3D): 72 μm long, 70 μm wide, gnathosomal length/idiosomal length 0.19. Base, length/width 0.57. Rostrum 32 μm long, nearly lanceolate, not reaching to level of distal end of palp. Rostral setae two pairs at swollen point, both long and thick. Chelicera

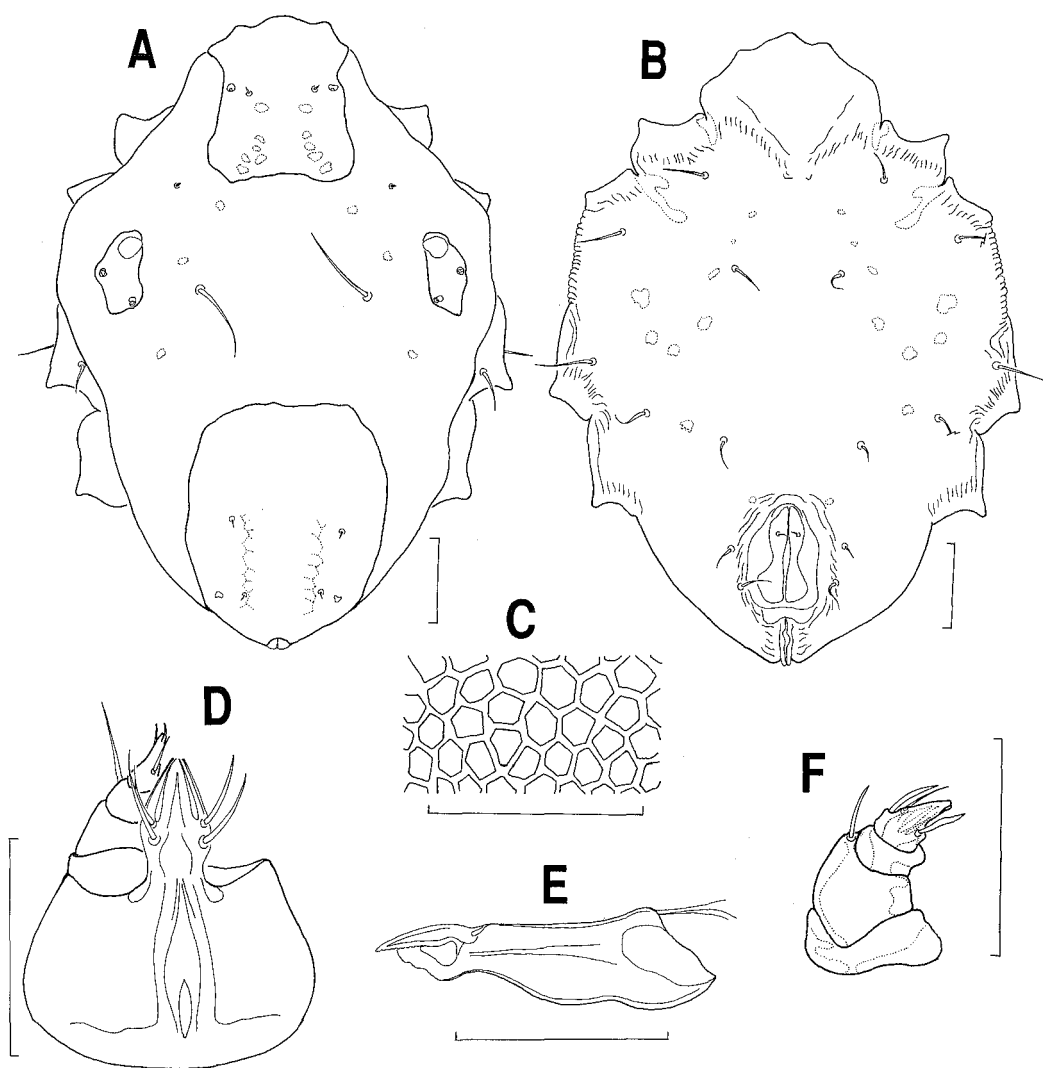


Fig. 3. *Isobactrus dentatus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr); C, panels on PD; D, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); E, chelicera (R); F, palp (L). Scale bars=50 μ m.

(Fig. 3E) with basal segment 60 μ m long; movable digit 16 μ m long, with seven to nine minute denticulations along dorsal edge. Fixed digit weakly developed. Palp (Fig. 3F) 44 μ m long; P-1 short and cylindrical; P-2 longest and robust, with a thick filiform seta distidorsally; P-3 short and cylindrical; P-4 conical, with two blade-like and one fine filiform setae intermediately, and with two appressed blunt spiniform projections terminally.

Legs (Figs. 5A-D): Length of legs I, II, III, IV=202, 204, 204, 204 μ m respectively. Ornamentation indistinct. Lateral claw with four or five robust accessory teeth and faint ventroproximal hook on the shaft.

Leg chaetotaxy as follows: Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-1-0; telofemora I-IV, 3-3-2-2; genua I-IV, 3-3-2-2; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. As for large

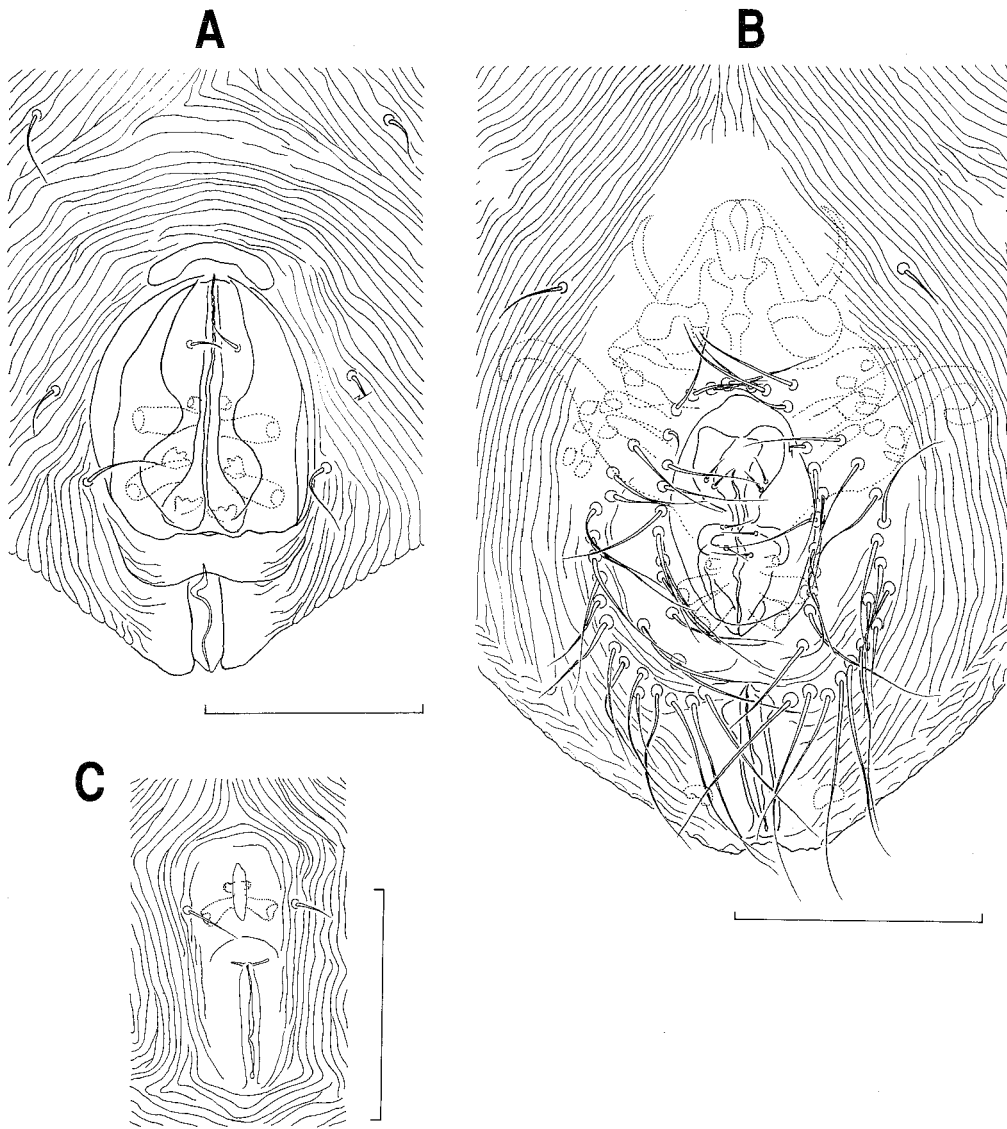


Fig. 4. *Isobactrus dentatus* sp. nov., genitoanal regions. A, female (holotype); B, male (allotype); C, deutonymph (paratype). Scale bars=50 μ m.

bipectinate setae: Tibiae I-IV, 1-0-0-0. Tarsus I (Fig. 6A) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, one vestigial famulus, and four parambulacral setae (paired doublet euphathidia). Solenidion bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus very faint at just ventrally to solenidion. Tarsus II (Fig. 6B) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, and four parambulacral setae. Solenidion bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Tarsus III (Fig. 6C) with four dorsal setae and two parambulacral setae (one single euphathidium on posterior surface, one divaricate proeuphathidium on anterior surface). Tarsus IV (Fig. 6D) with three dorsal setae (one filiform seta on basal claw fossa, two weakly plumose setae on distal claw fossa) and two parambulacral setae (one fine euphathidium on posterior surface,

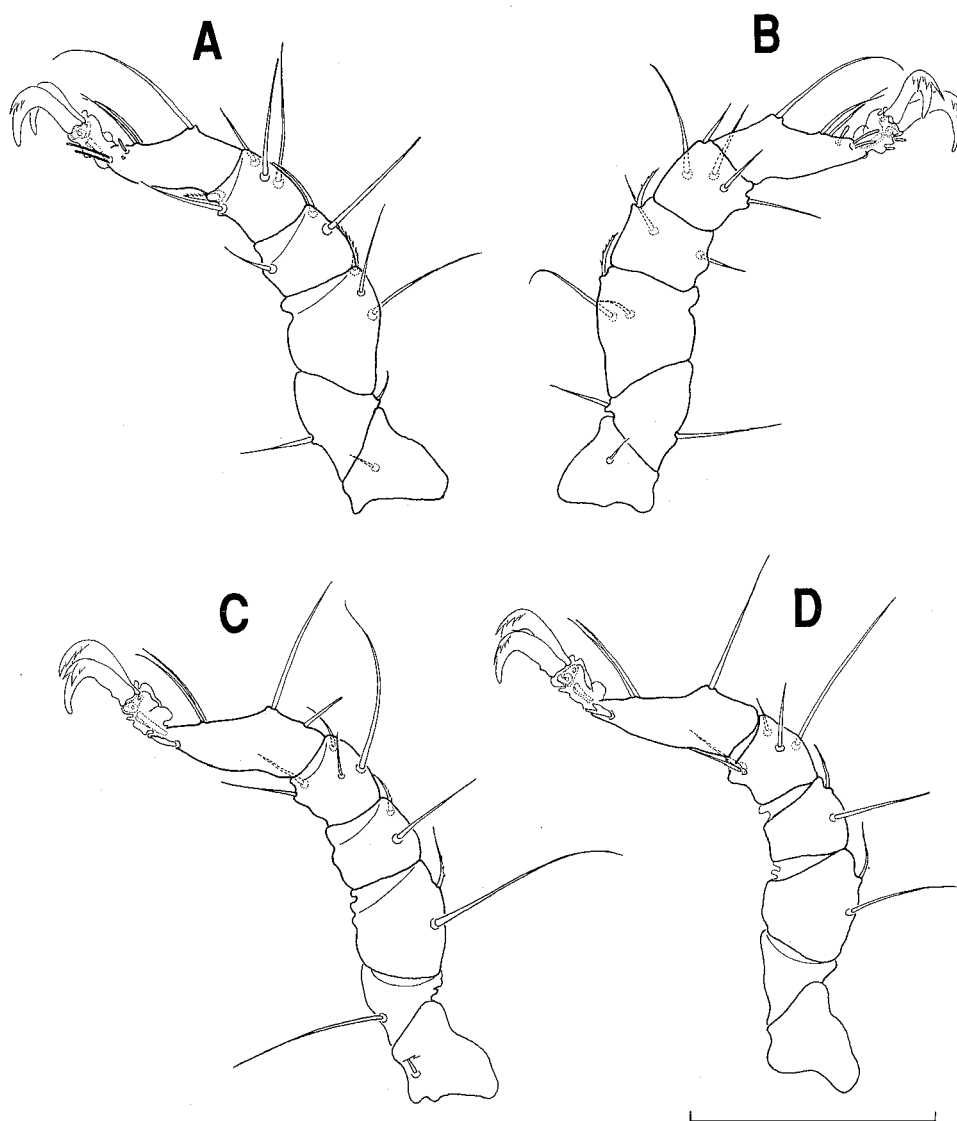


Fig. 5. *Isobactrus dentatus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, leg I (L); B, leg II (L); C, leg III (R); D, leg IV (R). Scale bar = 100 μ m.

one divaricate proeupathidium on anterior surface).

Male (allotype).

Idiosoma 340 μ m long, 224 μ m wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.18, resembling the female in essential respects except for character states of genitoanal region.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 4B) furnished with long filiform 61 perigenital setae as arranged in Fig. 4B. Membranous cuticle weakly sclerotized around genital foramen. Genital foramen 46 μ m long, 30 μ m wide. Subgenital setae four pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-2. Genital acetabula two pairs. Spermatophorotype (cf. Fig. 4B) 72 μ m long, 64 μ m wide, massive and rhombic.

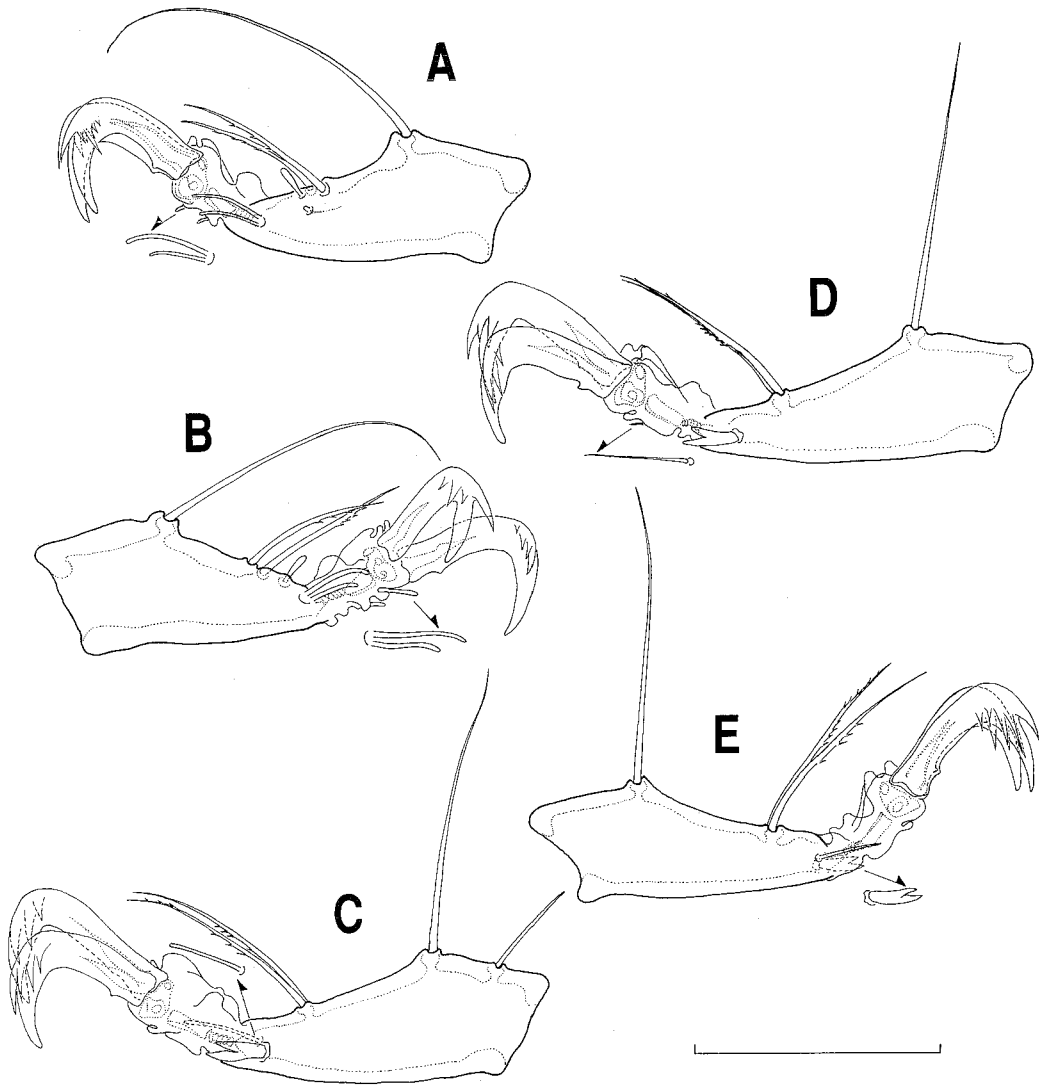


Fig. 6. *Isobactrus dentatus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, tarsus I (L); B, tarsus II (L); C, tarsus III (R); D, tarsus IV (R). Male (allotype). E, tarsus IV (R). Scale bar = 50 μ m.

Tarsus IV (Fig. 6E) resembles that in the female.

Deutonymph (paratype)

Idiosoma 228 μ m long, 152 μ m wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.20.

Dorsum: AD 72 μ m long, 58 μ m wide, faintly concave posteriorly. PD 74 μ m long, 80 μ m wide, convex anteriorly. AD and PD separated by interval of PD-length. OC 26 μ m long. Two pairs of subsurface pores located between AD and PD.

Venter: Epimeral plate developed only on each coxal region. Epimeral region furnished with several subsurface pores medially.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 4C): Genital region furnished with one pair of perigenital setae, bearing a tiny subsurface pore on each lateral region. Primordial genital slit surrounded by

faintly sclerotized membranous cuticle, furnished with two pairs of internal genital acetabula.

Legs : Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 126, 126, 130, 124 μm respectively. Leg chaetotaxy of trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0 ; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-1-0 ; telofemora I-IV, 3-3-2-2 ; genua I-IV, 3-3-2-2 ; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. Bipectinate setae on tibiae I-IV, 1-0-0-0.

Morphological variation and abnormality

The size range of the idiosoma, gnathosoma, and legs I-IV in adults as follows.

Female (n=4). Idiosoma-length : 328-372 μm , -width : 212-248 μm ; gnathosoma-length : 64-74 μm , -width : 60-74 μm ; leg-length : Leg I, 192-214 μm ; leg II, 192-216 μm ; leg III, 198-210 μm ; leg IV, 198-210 μm .

Male (n=4). Idiosoma-length : 320-348 μm , -width : 212-224 μm ; gnathosoma-length : 60-66 μm , -width : 60-64 μm ; leg-length : Leg I, 190-194 μm ; leg II, 188-194 μm ; leg III, 188-196 μm ; leg IV, 182-192 μm .

The number of the perigenital setae varies from 61 to 68 in the male.

Remarks

Isobactrus dentatus is recognized on the basis of the lateral claw furnished with robust accessory process bearing four to five strong teeth, and with faint ventroproximal hook on the shaft. *I. dentatus* resembles *I. setosus* (Lohmann, 1889) in having robust accessory process, but easily distinguishable from the latter by having four dorsal setae on tarsus III and scarcely developed epimeral plates.

The specific epithet is derived from the strongly dentate accessory process.

Habitat—Intertidal zone : Algae - *Lomentaria hakodatensis*, *Sargassum* sp. on boulders. Mussels - *Mytilus edulis* on ledge.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Hamamasu, Shukutsu, Oshoro.

Isobactrus gryposetus sp. nov.

[Japanese name : Magari-ojigidani]

(Figs. 7-10)

Type series. Holotype : Female, detritus at a depth of 0.1 m, Bikanbe-ushi River (salinity 2.8), Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 17.iii.1990, H. Abé coll. Allotype : Male, data same as the holotype. Paratypes : 3 females, detritus at a depth of 0.2 m, Lake Akkeshi, Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 23. v.1989, H. Abé coll. ; 2 females and 3 males, data same as the holotype.

Female (holotype)

Idiosoma 396 μm long, 240 μm wide. Color in life dark green with a fine dorsal semitransparent line longitudinally.

Dorsum (Fig. 7A) : Dorsal plate ornamented with clear panels, distinct costae and partly with fine canaliculi (cf. Fig. 7C). Dorsal membranous cuticle not tuberculate, furnished with two pairs of subsurface pores between AD and PD. AD and PD separated by interval of approximately a half of AD-length. AD 142 μm long, 96 μm wide, concave posteriorly, ornamented with costae and a pair of dorsal pores anteriorly. OC 60 μm long, furnished with one large cornea and two tiny polygonal pores. PD 178 μm long, 138 μm wide, furnished with costae and a pair of small dorsal pores posteriorly.

Chaetotaxy of dorsal region : Dorsal setae very short and faint except for ds-iii. Setae ds-i on AD ; ds-ii each placed on membranous cuticle between AD and OC ; ds-iii long and thick, each on membranous cuticle between AD and PD ; ds-iv and ds-v on PD.

Venter (Fig. 7B) : Epimeral plates developed only on each coxal region. Epimeral region furnished with several subsurface pores medially, and with epimeral pore between insertions of leg I and leg II on each side.

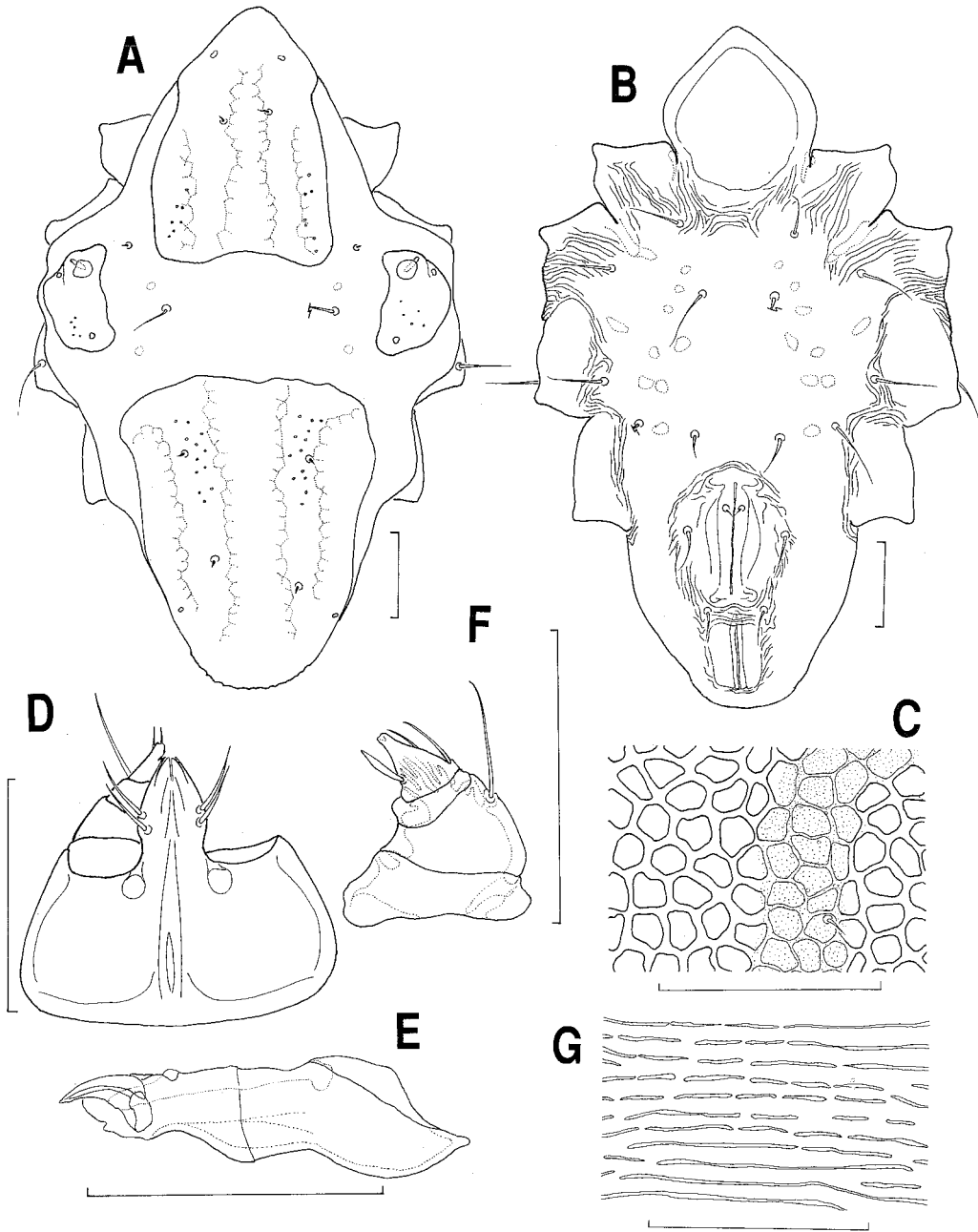


Fig. 7. *Isobactrus gryposetus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr); C, panels on PD; D, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); E, chelicera (L); F, palp (L). Female (paratype). G, striation of membranous cuticle (Ds). Scale bars = 50 μ m.

Chaetotaxy of epimeral region: Epimeral setae placed on striated membranous cuticle except for pes-iii-lat. Setae aes-i located at level posteriorly to camerostome; aes-ii-lat placed at posterior to insertion of leg II; aes-ii-v placed most medially; pes-iii-lat placed dorsally on posterior epimeral plate of coxae III; pes-iii-v near medial margins of coxae III; pes-iv placed near coxae IV.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 8A): Genitoanal region surrounded with striated membranous cuticle. Genital foramen $72\ \mu\text{m}$ long, $34\ \mu\text{m}$ wide, occupying from level anterior to insertion of leg IV to level anterior to anal foramen. Genital sclerites band-like. One pair of short indistinct, and two pairs of large internal genital acetabula are visible. Anal foramen placed ventrally on membranous cuticle.

Chaetotaxy of genitoanal region: Three filiform perigenital setae located on each side of genital foramen as arranged in Fig. 8A. Subgenital setae short filiform; one pair on genital sclerites, arranged 1-0.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 7D): $58\ \mu\text{m}$ long, $64\ \mu\text{m}$ wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.15. Base, length/width 0.48. Rostrum $30\ \mu\text{m}$ long, nearly lanceolate, not reaching to level of distal end of palp. Rostral setae two pairs at swollen point, both long and thick. Chelicera (Fig. 7E) with basal segment $52\ \mu\text{m}$ long, and movable digit $14\ \mu\text{m}$ long, without distinct denticulation along dorsal edge. Fixed digit weakly developed. Palp (Fig. 7F) $36\ \mu\text{m}$ long;

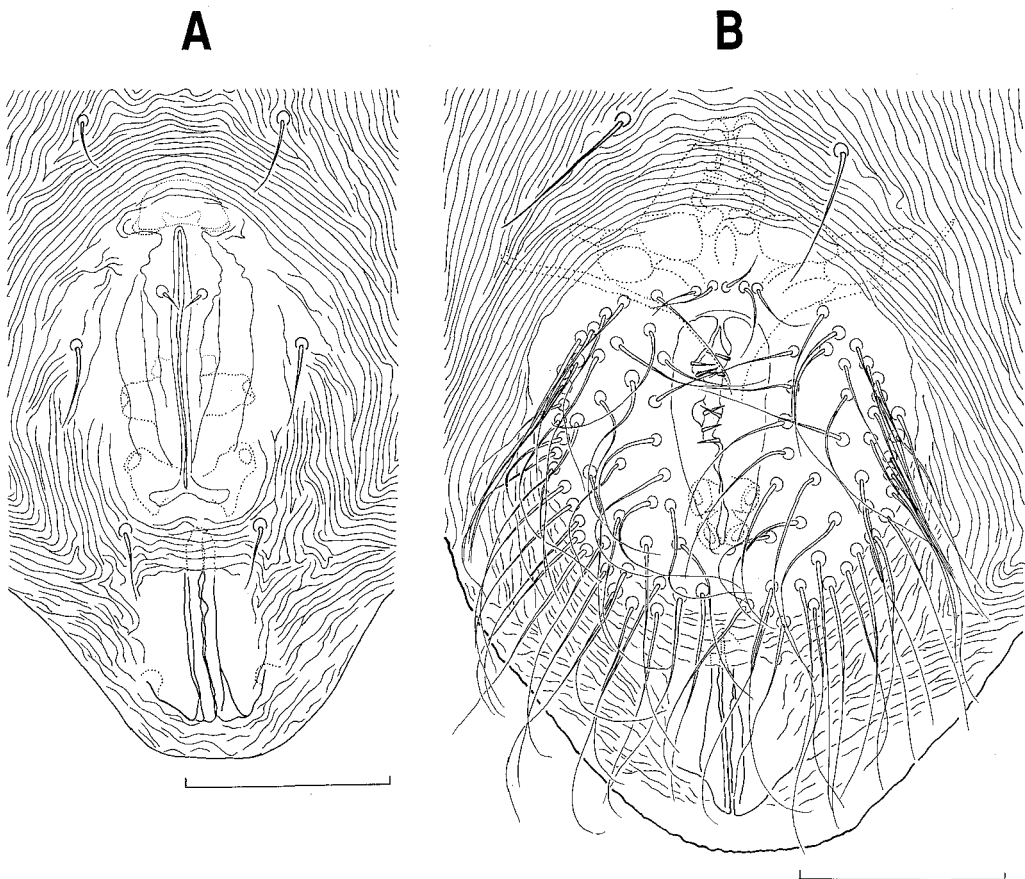


Fig. 8. *Isobactrus gryposetus* sp. nov., genitoanal regions. A, female (holotype); B, male (allotype). Scale bars = $50\ \mu\text{m}$.

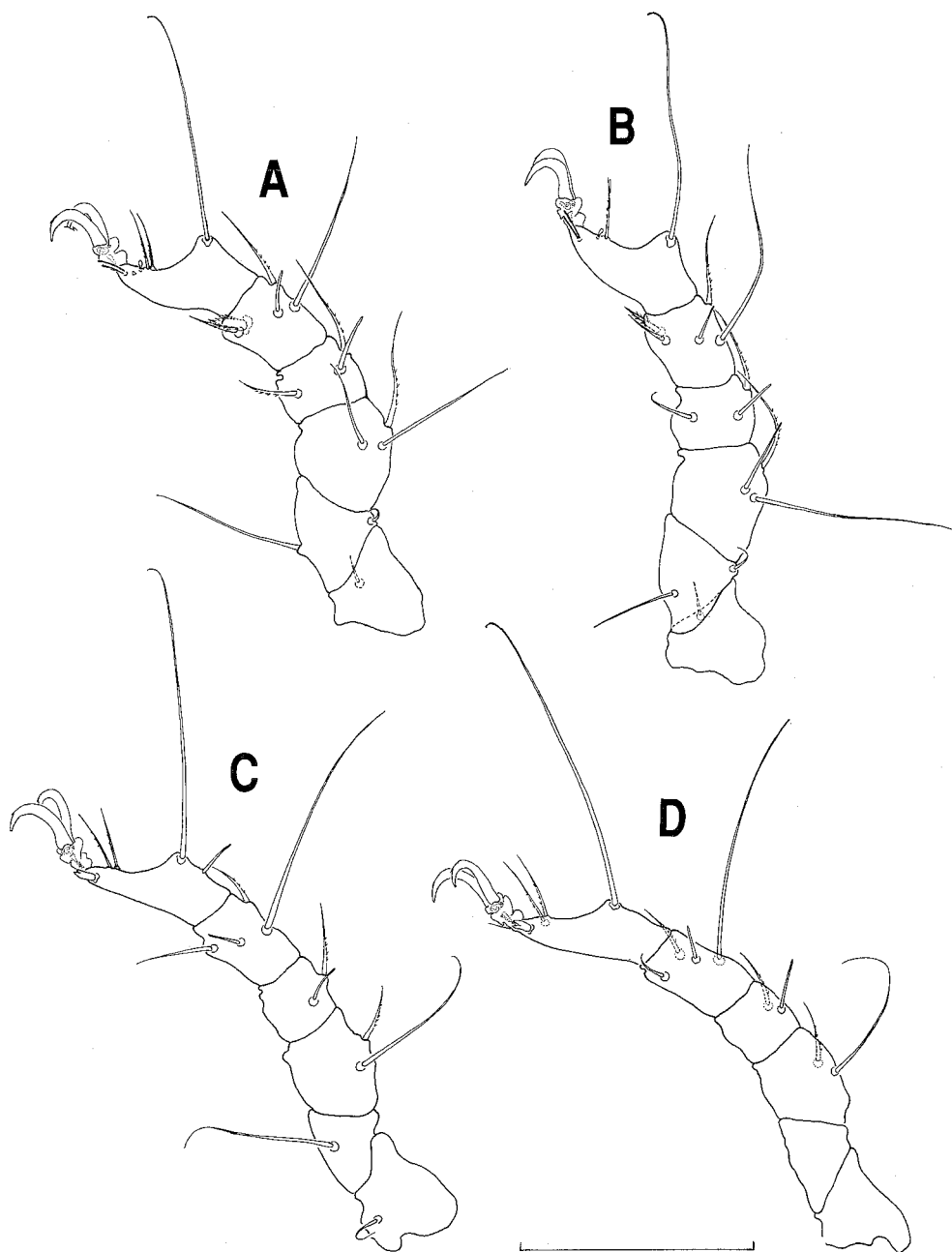


Fig. 9. *Isobactrus gryposetus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, leg I (L); B, leg II (L); C, leg III (R); D, leg IV (R). Scale bar=100 μ m.

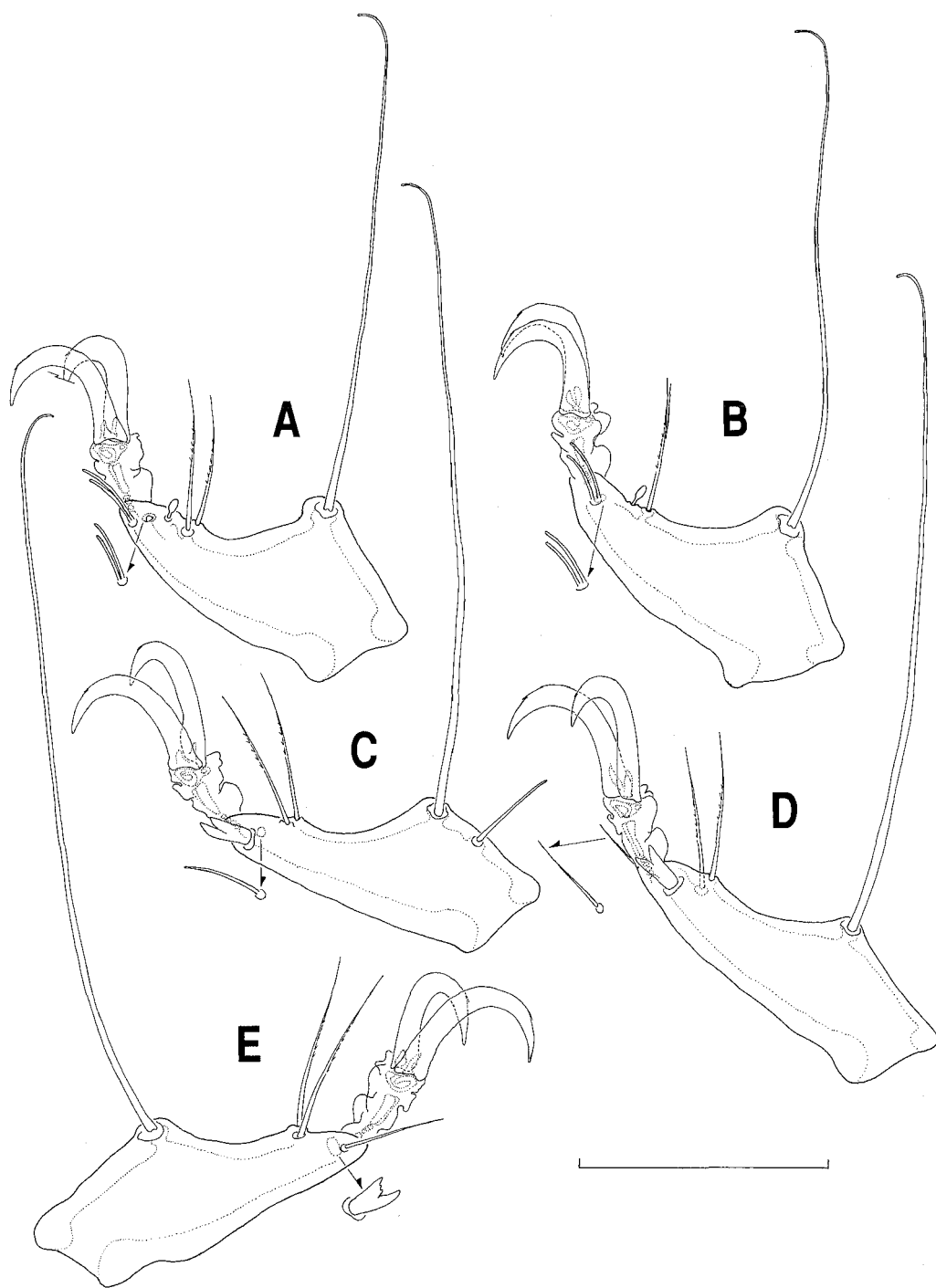


Fig. 10. *Isobactrus gryposeus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, tarsus I (L); B, tarsus II (L); C, tarsus III (R); D, tarsus IV (R). Male (allotype). E, tarsus IV (R). Scale bar = 50 μ m.

P-1 short and cylindrical; P-2 longest and robust, with a thick filiform seta distidorsally; P-3 short and cylindrical; P-4 conical, with two blade-like and one fine filiform setae intermediately, and with two appressed blunt spiniform projections terminally.

Legs (Figs. 9A-D): Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 214, 214, 220, 218 μm respectively. Ornamentation indistinct. Lateral claw with very faint accessory tooth.

Leg chaetotaxy as follows: Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-1-0; telofemora I-IV, 3-3-2-2; genua I-IV, 3-3-2-2; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-4-4. As for large bipectinate setae: Tibiae I-IV, 1-0-0-0. Tarsus I (Fig. 10A) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, one vestigial famulus, and four parambulacral setae (paired doublet euphathidia). Solenidion clavate on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus very faint at just ventrally to solenidion. Tarsus II (Fig. 10B) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, and four parambulacral setae. Solenidion clavate on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Tarsus III (Fig. 10C) with four dorsal setae and two parambulacral setae (one single euphathidium on posterior surface, one divaricate proeuphathidium on anterior surface). Tarsus IV (Fig. 10D) with three dorsal setae (one terminally bending filiform seta on basal claw fossa, two weakly plumose setae on distal claw fossa) and two parambulacral setae (one fine euphathidium on posterior surface, one divaricate proeuphathidium on anterior surface). Basal fossary seta of each tarsus is very long and strongly bending at terminal end.

Male (allotype)

Idiosoma 432 μm long, 260 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.14, resembling the female in essential respects except for character states of genitoanal region.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 8B) furnished with long filiform 91 perigenital setae as arranged in Fig. 8B. Membranous cuticle weakly sclerotized around genital foramen. Genital foramen 60 μm long, 24 μm wide. Subgenital setae four pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-2. Genital acetabula two pairs. Spermatophorotype (cf. Fig. 8B) 74 μm long, 84 μm wide, massive and rhombic.

Tarsus IV (Fig. 10E) similar to that in the female.

Morphological variation and abnormality

The female specimens collected from Lake Akkeshi on 23 May, 1989 have relatively large body size. Some metric character states of the abnormal specimens are given below.

Female (paratype).

Idiosoma 516 μm long, 316 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.14.

Dorsum: AD and PD separated by interval more than AD-length. Dorsal membranous cuticle faintly tuberculate (Fig. 7G). AD 148 μm long, 104 μm wide, reaching posteriorly to level of insertion of leg II. OC 70 μm long. PD 196 μm long, 160 μm wide, reaching anteriorly to level between insertions of leg III and leg IV.

Venter: Genital foramen 82 μm long, 32 μm wide, reaching anteriorly to the level of the insertion of leg IV.

Legs: Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 230, 232, 234, 232 μm respectively.

The size range of the idiosoma, gnathosoma, and legs I-IV in adults as follows.

Female (Lake Akkeshi, $n=3$). Idiosoma-length: 484-516 μm , -width: 228-324 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 70 μm , -width: 70-72 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 220-230 μm ; leg II, 232-234 μm ; leg III, 228-240 μm ; leg IV, 232-238 μm .

Female (Bekanbe-ushi River, $n=3$). Idiosoma-length: 396-432 μm , -width: 240-260 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 58-60 μm , -width: 64-68 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 208-214 μm ; leg II, 208-214 μm ; leg III, 218-228 μm ; leg IV, 218-230 μm .

Male ($n=4$). Idiosoma-length: 400-432 μm , -width: 240-260 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 56-62 μm , -width: 64-66 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 196-212 μm ; leg II, 200-220 μm ; leg III, 204

-222 μm ; leg IV, 202-230 μm .

One female specimen from Lake Akkeshi has one additional perigenital seta on the left side of the genital foramen. The number of the perigenital setae varies from 72 to 91 in the male. One female specimen from Bekaube-ushi River has one large bipectinate seta also on tibia II.

Remarks

Isobactrus gryposetus is easily distinguishable from related species in having a long terminally bending basal fossary seta on each tarsus, dorsal plates with distinct costae, two dorsal setae on posterior dorsal plate, and accessory process with a faint single tooth.

I. gryposetus is regarded as an euryhaline species, being found in a wide salinity range of about 3-32.

The specific epithet is derived from the terminally bending (grypo-) basal fossary seta on each tarsus.

Habitat—Intertidal and subtidal zones: Algae - *Fucus evanescens* on intertidal boulders, *Agarum cribrosum* at subtidal zone. Detritus at 0.1-0.2 m depth (salinity 2.8).

Distribution in Hokkaido—Nakanose, Aininkappu, Lake Akkeshi, (Bekaube-ushi River).

Isobactrus hamatus sp. nov.

[Japanese name: Kagizume-ojigidani]

(Figs. 11-14)

Type series. Holotype: Male, *Sargassum thunbergii* on flat, intertidal, Oshoro (Shamodomari), Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 10.iv.1988, H. Abé coll.

Male (holotype)

Idiosoma 392 μm long, 280 μm wide. Color in life dark green.

Dorsum (Fig. 11A): Dorsal plate ornamented with weak panels (Fig. 11C), and partly with fine canaliculi. Dorsal membranous cuticle strongly striated, not tuberculate, furnished with several subsurface pores. AD and PD separated by interval about a half of AD-length. AD 112 μm long, 126 μm wide, truncated posteriorly, ornamented with weak areolation and a pair of tiny dorsal pores anteriorly. OC 46 μm long, furnished with one large cornea and one tiny pore-like structure posteriorly. PD 202 μm long, 158 μm wide. Dorsal pores and costae indistinct.

Chaetotaxy of dorsal region: Dorsal setae vestigial except for ds-iii. Setae ds-i on AD; ds-ii each placed on membranous cuticle between AD and OC; ds-iii long and thick, each on membranous cuticle between AD and PD; ds-iv and ds-v on PD.

Venter (Fig. 11B): Epimeral plates weakly developed only on each coxal region. Ventral membranous cuticle more finely striated than dorsum. Epimeral region furnished with several subsurface pores medially, and with epimeral pore between insertions of leg I and leg II on each side.

Chaetotaxy of epimeral region: Epimeral setae placed on striated membranous cuticle except for pes-iii-lat. Setae aes-i located at level posteriorly to camerostome; aes-ii-lat placed at posterior to insertion of leg II; aes-ii-v placed most medially; pes-iii-lat placed dorsally on posterior epimeral plate of coxae III; pes-iii-v on medial margins of coxae III; pes-iv placed near coxae IV.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 12D): Genitoanal region surrounded with weakly sclerotized membranous cuticle. Genital foramen 54 μm long, 34 μm wide, occupying from level of the pes-iv to level anterior to anal foramen. Two pairs of large internal genital acetabula are visible. Spermatophorotype (cf. Fig. 12D) 90 μm long, 66 μm wide, massive and rhombic.

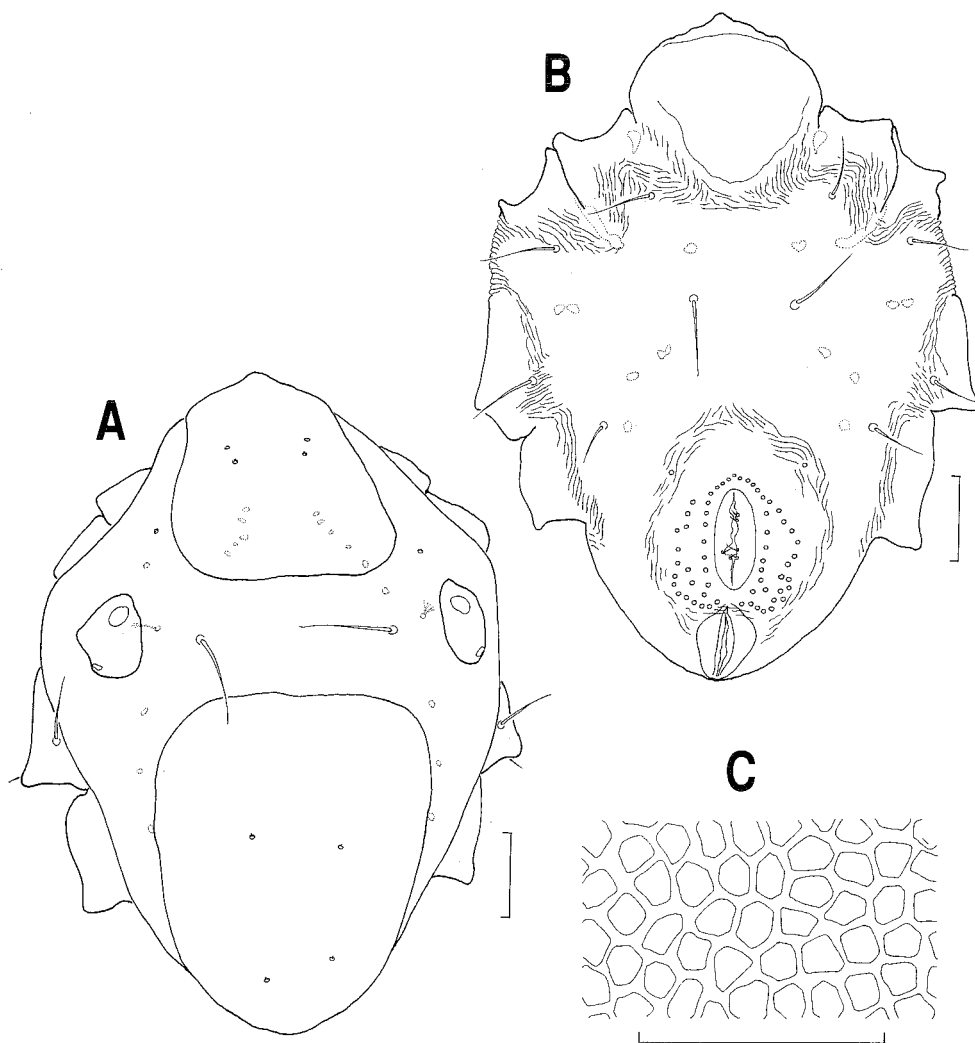


Fig. 11. *Isobactrus hamatus* sp. nov., male (holotype). A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr) (perigenital setae omitted); C, panels on PD. Scale bars = 50 μ m.

Anal foramen placed subterminally on membranous cuticle.

Chaetotaxy of genitoanal region: Long filiform 62 perigenital setae surrounding the genital foramen as arranged in Fig. 12D. Subgenital seta indistinct, but four pairs should be present.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 12A): 70 μ m long, 70 μ m wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.18. Base, length/width 0.57. Rostrum 34 μ m long, nearly lanceolate, not reaching to level of distal end of palp. Rostral setae two pairs at swollen point, both long and thick. Chelicera (Fig. 12B) with basal segment 62 μ m long, and movable digit 18 μ m long, without distinct denticulation along dorsal edge. Fixed digit weakly developed. Palp (Fig. 12C) 42 μ m long; P-1 short and cylindrical; P-2 longest and robust, with a thick filiform seta distidorsally; P-3 short and cylindrical; P-4 conical, with two thick and one fine filiform setae intermediately, and with two appressed blunt spiniform projections terminally.

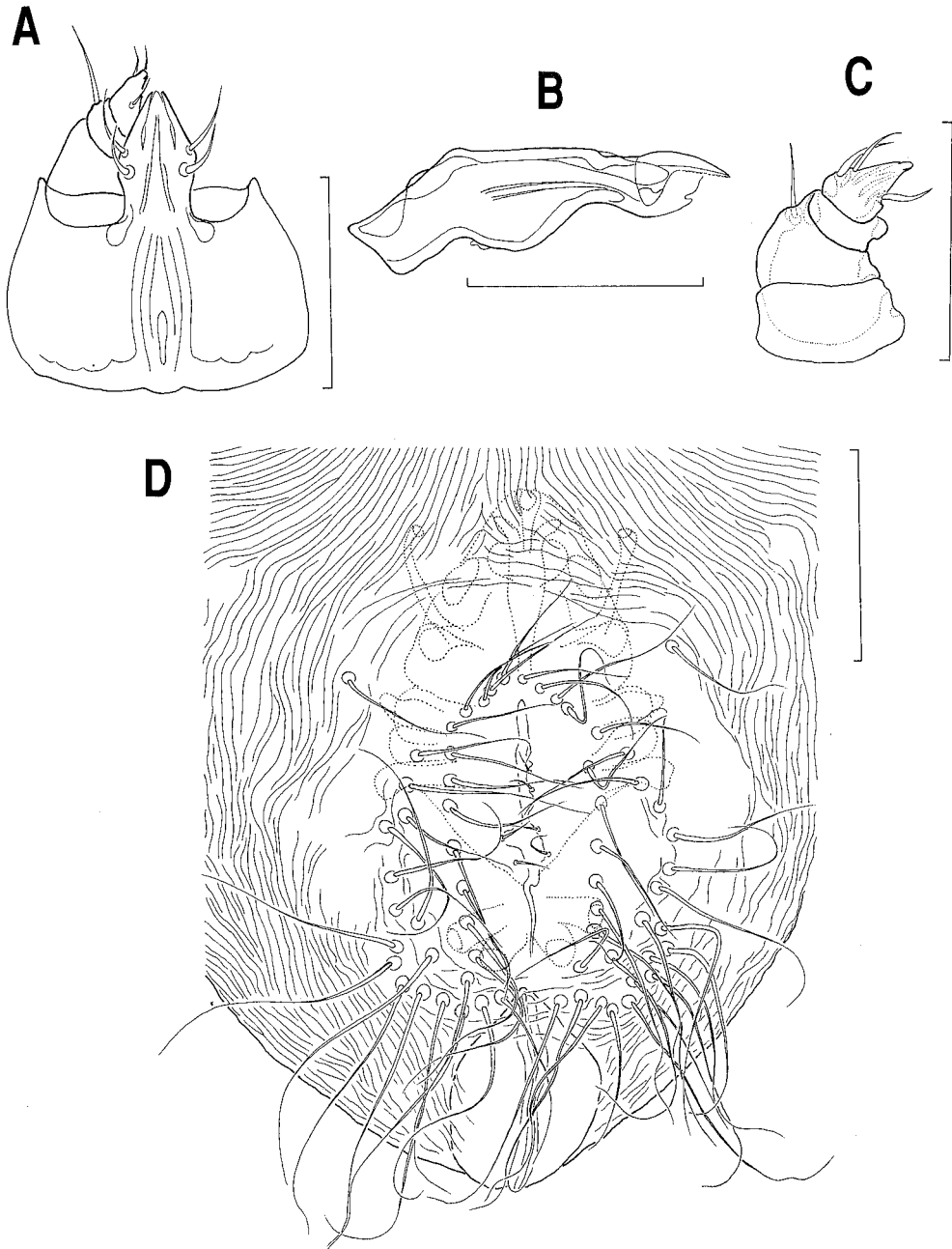


Fig. 12. *Isobactrus hamatus* sp. nov., male (holotype). A, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); B, chelicera (R); C, palp (L); D, genitoanal region. Scale bars=50 μ m.

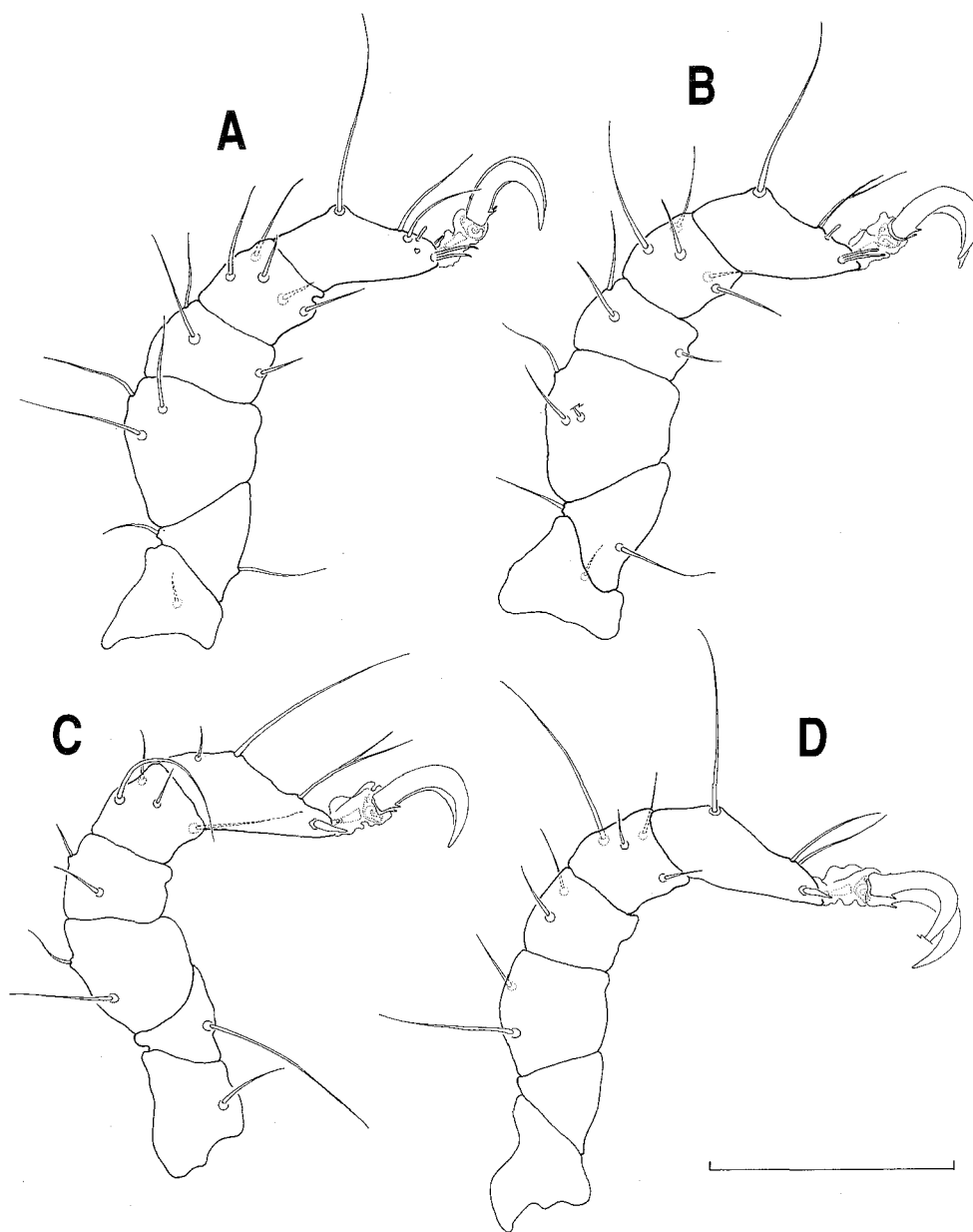


Fig. 13. *Isobactrus hamatus* sp. nov., male (holotype). A, leg I (R); B, leg II (R); C, leg III (L); D, leg IV (L). Scale bar=100 μ m.

Legs (Figs. 13A-D): Length of legs I, II, III, IV=230, 226, 224, 232 μ m respectively. Ornamentation indistinct. Lateral claw large, furnished with very faint dorsal and distinct ventroproximal hooks on the shaft, without accessory teeth. Legs without large bipectinate setae.

Leg chaetotaxy as follows: Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-1-0;

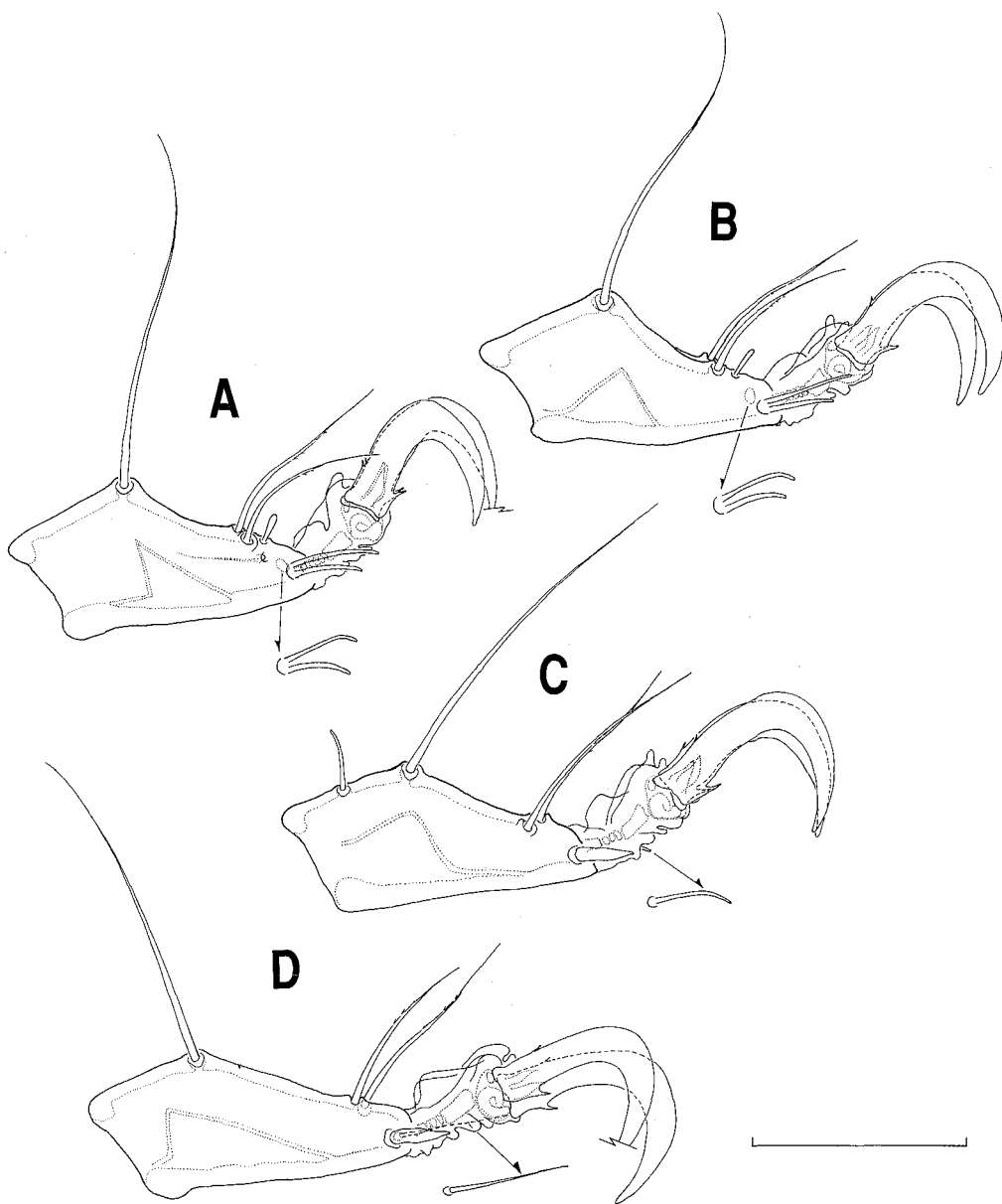


Fig. 14. *Isobactrus hamatus* sp. nov., male (holotype). A, tarsus I (R); B, tarsus II (R); C, tarsus III (L); D, tarsus IV (L). Scale bar=50 μ m.

telofemora I-IV, 3-3-2-2; genua I-IV, 3-3-2-2; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-4-4. Tarsus I (Fig. 14A) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, one vestigial famulus, and four parambulacral setae (paired doublet euphathidia). Solenidion bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus very faint at just ventrally to solenidion. Tarsus II (Fig. 14B) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, and four parambulacral setae. Solenidion bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Tarsus III (Fig. 14C) with four dorsal setae and two parambulacral setae (one single euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on

anterior surface). Tarsus IV (Fig. 14D) with three dorsal setae (one filiform seta on basal claw fossa, two weakly plumose setae on distal claw fossa) and two parambulacral setae (one fine euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Remarks

Among *Isobactrus* species, only *I. magnus* (Lohmann, 1907) has so far been known to possess a distinct hook on the claw shaft. *I. hamatus* shares this characteristics, but is easily discernible from *I. magnus* by the unfused anterior epimeral plate, and the absence of bipectinate setae on all legs.

The present species is described on the basis of one single male specimen collected from the Oshoro Bay in which the most intensive collection was executed during the study. Therefore, it is possible that this species actually has more wide distributional range, and a limited occurrence of this species is due to low frequency of sampling.

The specific epithet is derived from the hook on the claw shaft.

Habitat—Intertidal zone: Algae - *Sargassum thunbergii* on flat.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Oshoro.

Isobactrus latistriatus sp. nov.

[Japanese name: Futojima-ojigidani]

(Figs. 15-18)

Type series. Holotype: Female, *Fucus evanescens* on flat, intertidal, Utoro, Okhotsk coast of Hokkaido, 6.vi.1988, H. Abé coll. Allotype: Male, data same as the holotype. Paratypes: 2 males, data same as the holotype; 2 tritonymphs, on *Gloiopeltis furcata* at shore line, intertidal, Yakumo, Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 10.xi.1993, Y. Takashima coll.

Female (holotype)

Idiosoma 388 μm long, 272 μm wide. Color in life dark green with a fine dorsal semitransparent line longitudinally.

Dorsum (Fig. 15A): Dorsal plate ornamented with weak panels (Fig. 15D), and partly with fine canaliculi. Dorsal membranous cuticle (Fig. 15C) widely striated, not tuberculate, furnished with three pairs of subsurface pores between AD and PD. AD and PD separated by interval more than AD-length. AD 106 μm long, 92 μm wide, concave posteriorly, ornamented with clear areolation and a pair of dorsal pores laterally. OC 42 μm long, furnished with one large cornea and two tiny polygonal pores. PD 166 μm long, 134 μm wide, furnished with a pair of small dorsal pores posteriorly. Costae not clear.

Chaetotaxy of dorsal region: Dorsal setae very short and faint except for ds-iii. Setae ds-i on AD; ds-ii each placed on membranous cuticle between AD and OC; ds-iii long and thick, each on membranous cuticle between AD and PD; ds-iv and ds-v on PD.

Venter (Fig. 15B): Epimeral plates weakly developed only on each coxal region. Ventral membranous cuticle more finely striated than that of dorsum. Epimeral region furnished with several subsurface pores medially, and with epimeral pore between insertions of leg I and leg II on each side.

Chaetotaxy of epimeral region: Epimeral setae placed on striated membranous cuticle except for pes-iii-lat. Setae aes-i located at level posteriorly to camerostome; aes-ii-lat placed at posterior to insertion of leg II; aes-ii-v placed most medially; pes-iii-lat placed dorsally on posterior epimeral plate of coxae III; pes-iii-v near medial margins of coxae III; pes-iv placed near coxae IV.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 16A): Genitoanal region surrounded with striated membranous cuticle. Genital foramen 64 μm long, 36 μm wide, occupying from level of the insertion of leg

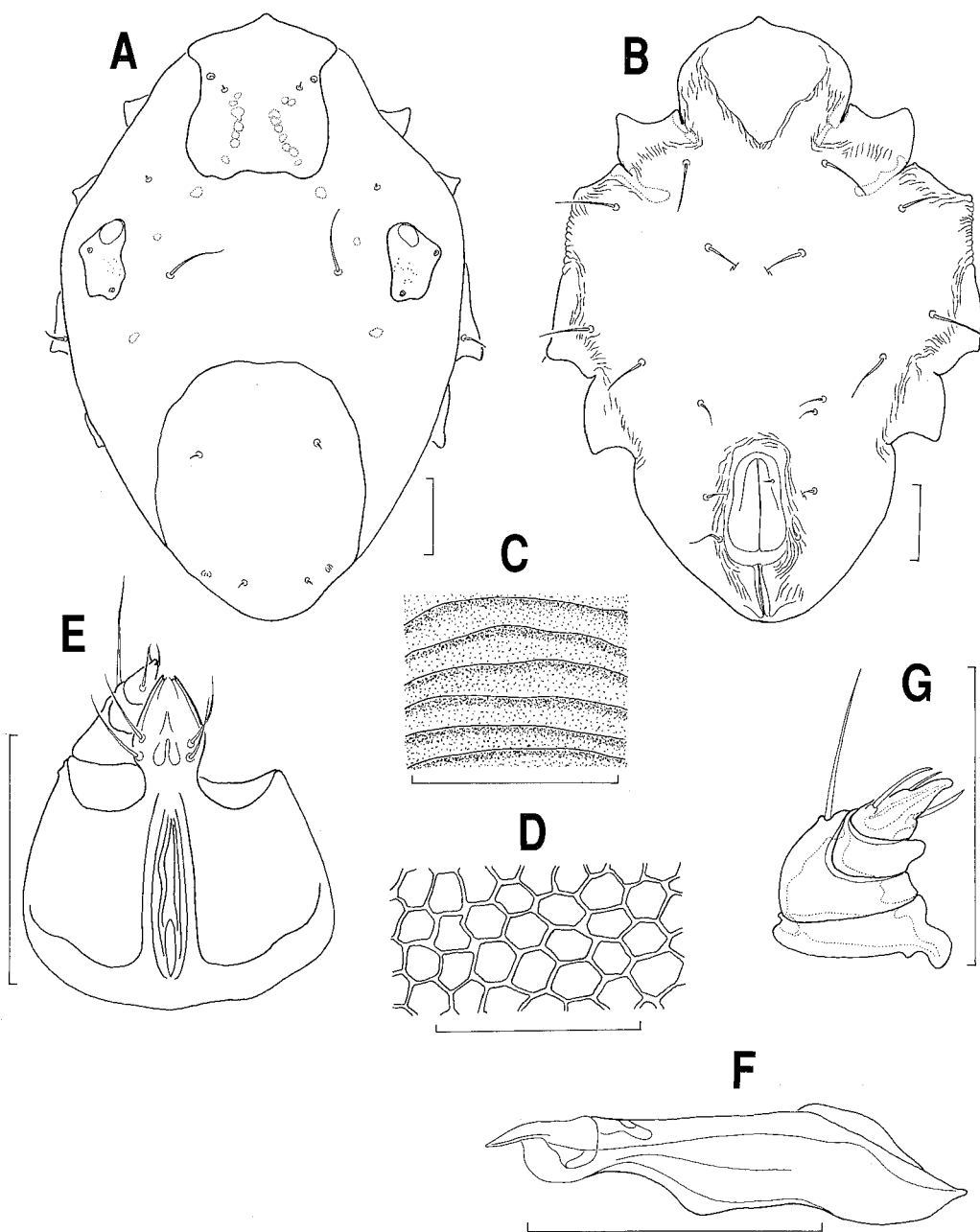


Fig. 15. *Isobactrus latistriatus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr); C, striation of membranous cuticle (Ds); D, panels on PD; E, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); F, chelicera (L); G, palp (L). Scale bars=50 μ m.

IV to level anterior to anal foramen. Genital sclerites band-like. One pair of very short, and two pairs of large internal genital acetabula are visible. Anal foramen placed subterminally on membranous cuticle.

Chaetotaxy of genitoanal region: Three filiform perigenital setae located on each side of

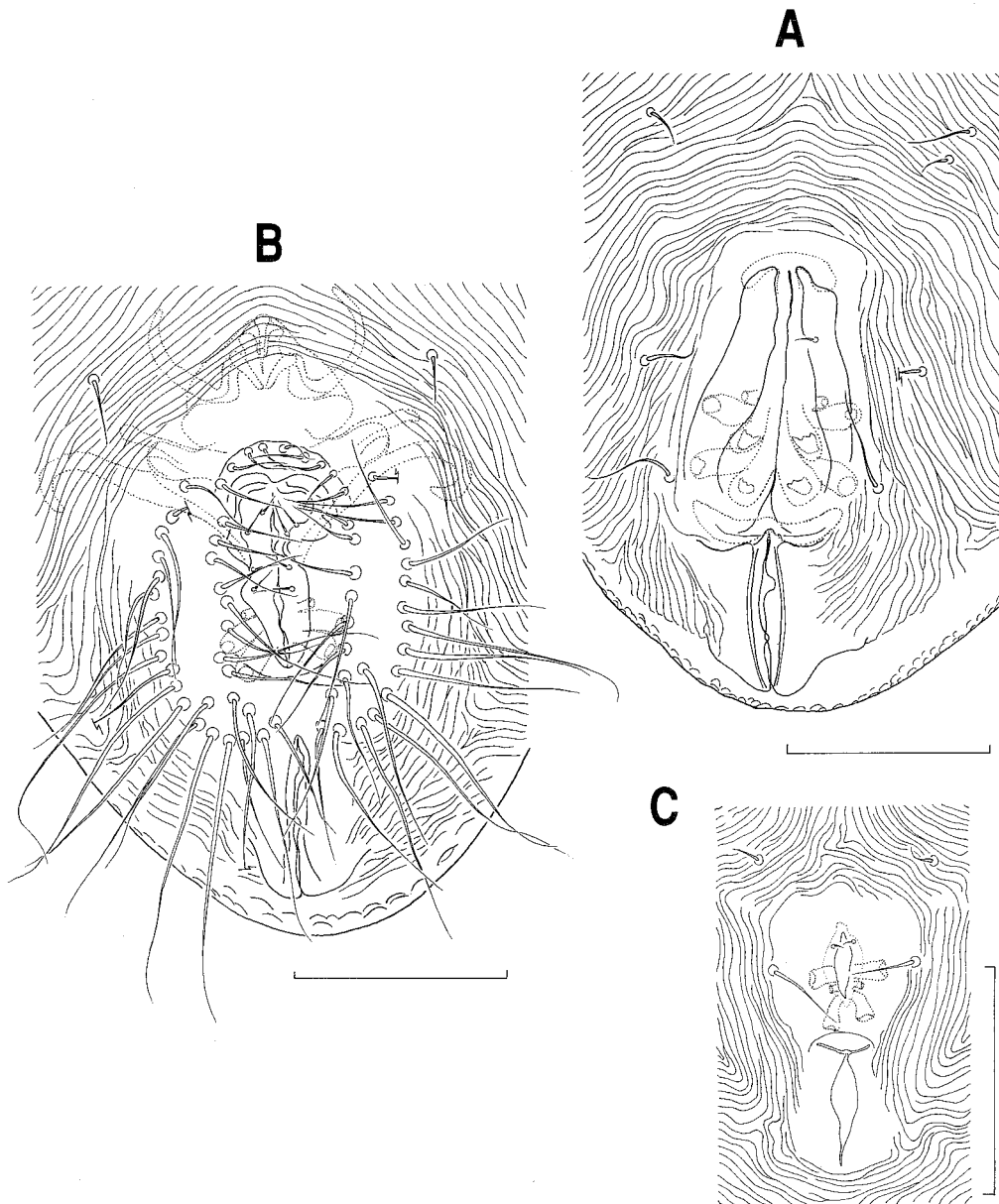


Fig. 16. *Isobactrus latistriatus* sp. nov., genitoanal regions. A, female (holotype); B, male (allotype); C, tritonymph (paratype). Scale bars=50 μ m.

genital foramen as arranged in Fig. 16A. The described specimen has one additional perigenital seta on the left side of genital foramen. Subgenital seta short filiform; only one seta is visible on the left genital sclerite.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 15E): 66 μ m long, 62 μ m wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.17. Base, length/width 0.64. Rostrum 30 μ m long, nearly lanceolate, not reaching to level of distal end of palp. Rostral setae two pairs, at swollen point, both long and thick. Chelicera

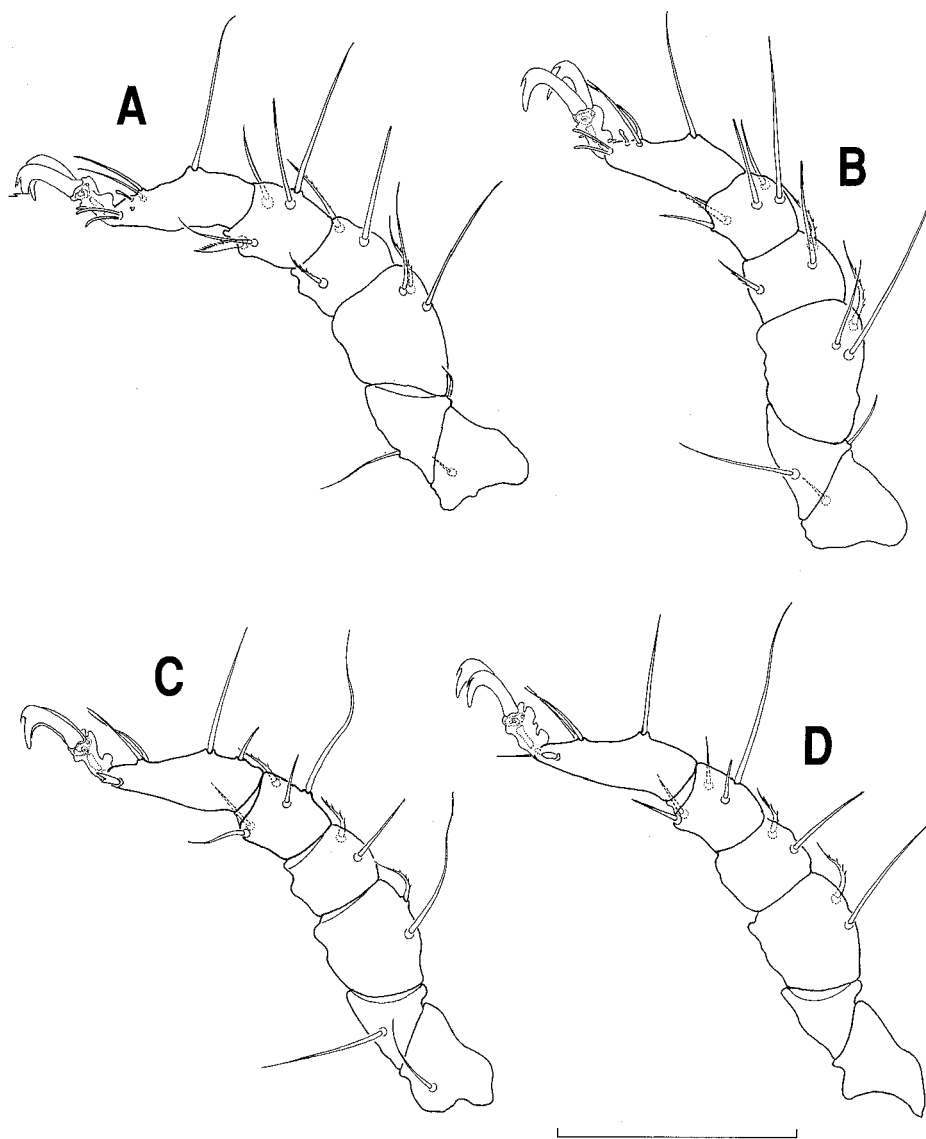


Fig. 17. *Isobactrus latistriatus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, leg I (L); B, leg II (L); C, leg III (R); D, leg IV (R). Scale bar=100 μ m.

(Fig. 15F) with basal segment 60 μ m long, and movable digit 18 μ m long, without distinct denticulation along dorsal edge. Fixed digit weakly developed. Palp (Fig. 15G) 42 μ m long; P-1 short and cylindrical; P-2 longest and robust, with a long thick filiform seta distidorsally; P-3 short and cylindrical; P-4 conical, with two thick and one fine filiform setae intermediately, and with two appressed blunt spiniform projections terminally.

Legs (Figs. 17A-D): Length of legs I, II, III, IV=214, 214, 208, 208 μ m respectively. Ornamentation indistinct. Lateral claw with four to six fine accessory teeth.

Leg chaetotaxy as follows: Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-1-0; telofemora I-IV, 3-3-2-2; genua I-IV, 3-3-2-2; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. As for large

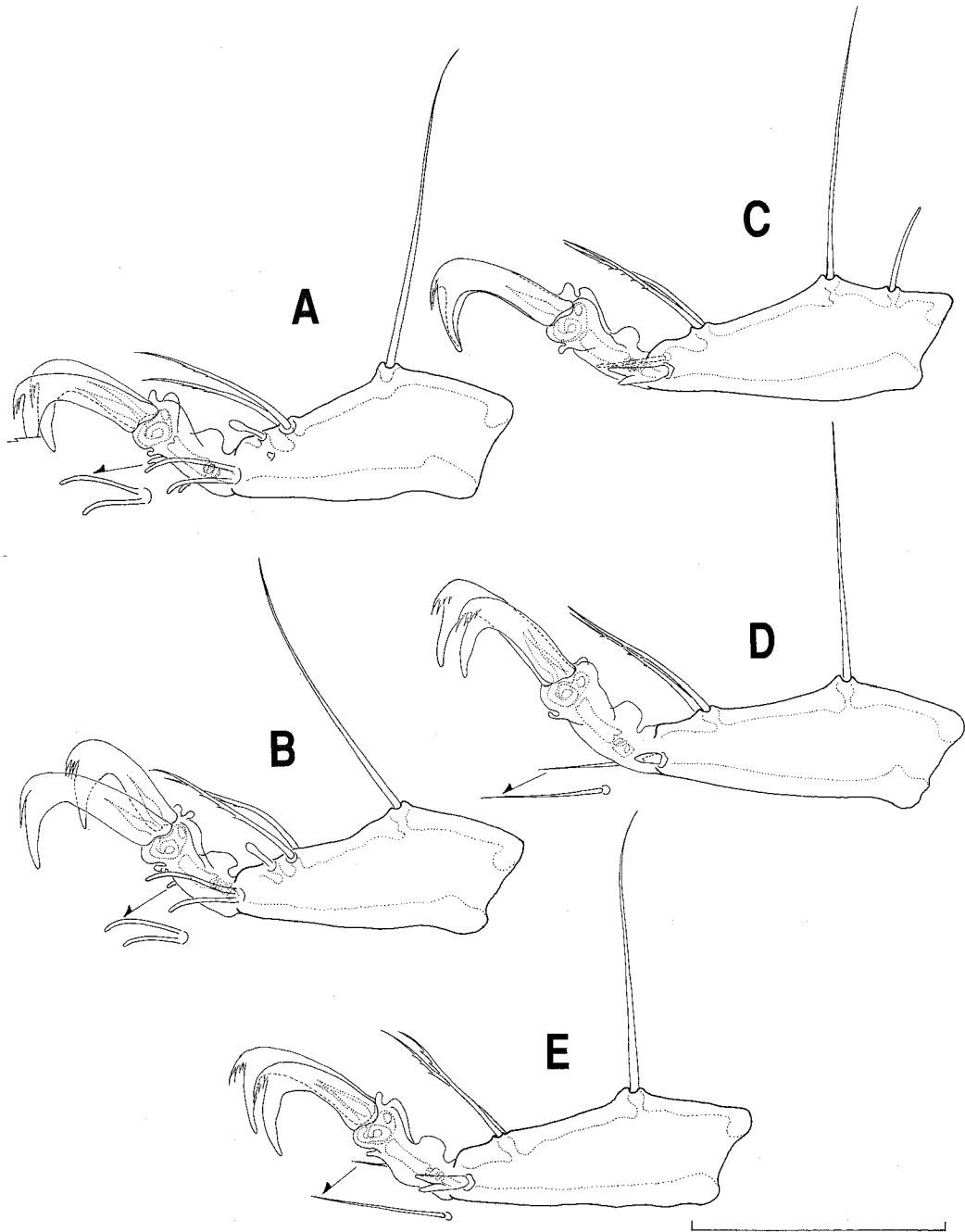


Fig. 18. *Isobactrus latistriatus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, tarsus I (L); B, tarsus II (L); C, tarsus III (R); D, tarsus IV (R). Male (allotype). E, tarsus IV (R). Scale bar=50 μ m.

bipectinate setae: Tibiae I-IV, 1-0-0-0. Tarsus I (Fig. 18A) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, one vestigial famulus, and four parambulacral setae (paired doublet euphathidia). Solenidion clavate on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus very faint at just ventrally to solenidion. Tarsus II (Fig. 18B) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, and four parambulacral setae. Solenidion clavate on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Tarsus III (Fig. 18C) with four dorsal setae and two parambulacral setae (one single euphathidium on posterior surface, one divaricate proeuphathidium on anterior surface). Tarsus IV (Fig. 18D) with three dorsal setae (one filiform seta on basal claw fossa, two weakly plumose setae on distal claw fossa) and two parambulacral setae (one fine euphathidium on posterior surface, one divaricate proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Male (allotype).

Idiosoma 360 μm long, 240 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.17, resembling the female in essential respects except for character states of genitoanal region.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 16B) furnished with long filiform 64 perigenital setae as arranged in Fig. 16B. Membranous cuticle weakly sclerotized around genital foramen. Genital foramen 46 μm long, 26 μm wide. Subgenital setae four pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-2. Genital acetabula two pairs. Spermatophorotype (cf. Fig. 16B) 74 μm long, 70 μm wide, massive and rhombic.

Tarsus IV (Fig. 18E) similar to that in the female.

Tritonymph (paratype).

Idiosoma 256 μm long, 164 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.20.

Dorsum: AD 84 μm long, 70 μm wide, faintly concave posteriorly. PD 120 μm long, 100 μm wide, convex anteriorly. AD and PD separated by interval about a half of PD-width. OC 34 μm long. A pair of subsurface pore placed between AD and OC. Two pairs of subsurface pores located between AD and PD.

Venter: Epimeral plate developed only on each coxal region. Epimeral region furnished with several subsurface pores medially.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 16C): Genital region furnished with two pairs of perigenital and one pair of faint subgenital setae. Primordial genital slit surrounded by weakly sclerotized membranous cuticle, furnished with three pairs of internal genital acetabula of which second pair is very short. Anal foramen ventrally placed on membranous cuticle.

Legs: Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 132, 122, 130, 130 μm respectively. Leg chaetotaxy of trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-1-0; telofemora I-IV, 3-3-2-2; genua I-IV, 3-3-3-2; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. Distinct bipectinate setae on tibiae I-IV, 1-0-0-0.

Morphological variation and abnormality

The size range of the idiosoma, gnathosoma, and legs I-IV as follows.

Male (n=3). Idiosoma-length: 356-392 μm , -width: 224-252 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 62-66 μm , -width: 60-64 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 192-214 μm ; leg II, 186-214 μm ; leg III, 188-212 μm ; leg IV, 194-214 μm .

Tritonymph (n=2). Idiosoma-length: 256-304 μm , -width: 164-204 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 50 μm , -width: 56-58 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 132-134 μm ; leg II, 122-138 μm ; leg III, 130-140 μm ; leg IV, 130-140 μm .

The number of the perigenital setae varies from 64 to 74 in the male. The holotype female specimen has one additional perigenital seta on the left side of genital foramen.

Remarks

Isobactrus latistriatus is characterized by having widely striated dorsal membranous cuticle. In this respect, the present species shows close similarity to *I. dentatus*, but it is readily discriminated from the latter by having the accessory process with four to six fine

teeth. *I. latistriatus* also resembles *I. hartmanni* Bartsch, 1972 in the idiosomal and leg chaetotaxy, and morphology of accessory process, however the new species differs from the latter in the outline of dorsal plates, and the less number of (64-74) perigenital setae in the male.

The specific epithet is derived from the widely striated membranous cuticle on dorsal surface.

Habitat—Intertidal zone: Algae - *Fucus evanescens* on flat, *Gloiopeltis furcata* on shore line.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Yakumo, Kushiro, Aininkappu, Utoro.

***Isobactrus tuberculatus* sp. nov.**

[Japanese name: Kobu-ojigidani]

(Figs. 19-23)

Type series. Holotype: Female, *Enteromorpha intestinalis* on gravels at a depth of 0.1 m, Shizunai, Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 22.vii.1992, H. Abé coll. Allotype: Male, locality same as the holotype, 22.v.1989, H. Abé coll. Paratypes: 2 females, 1 male, 2 tritonymphs and 1 protonymph, data same as the allotype; 1 female and 1 deutonymph, data same as the holotype.

Female (holotype)

Idiosoma 348 μ m, 232 μ m wide. Color in life dark green with a fine dorsal semitransparent line longitudinally.

Dorsum (Fig. 19A): Dorsal plate ornamented with reticulated panels (Fig. 19D), and partly with fine canaliculi. Dorsal membranous cuticle (Fig. 19C) tuberculate, furnished with two pairs of subsurface pores between AD and PD. AD and PD separated by interval of approximately a half of AD-length. AD 116 μ m long, 124 μ m wide, weakly concave posteriorly, ornamented with areolation posteriorly, and with a pair of dorsal pores anteriorly. OC 68 μ m long, furnished with one large cornea and two tiny polygonal pores. Areolation indistinct. PD 178 μ m long, 142 μ m wide, furnished with a pair of small dorsal pores on posteriorly. Costae not seen.

Chaetotaxy of dorsal region: Dorsal setae very short and faint except for ds-iii. Setae ds-i on AD; ds-ii each placed on membranous cuticle between AD and OC; ds-iii long and thick, each on membranous cuticle between AD and PD; ds-iv and ds-v on PD.

Venter (Fig. 19B): Epimeral plates weakly developed only on each coxal region. Epimeral region furnished with several subsurface pores medially, and with epimeral pore between insertions of leg I and leg II on each side.

Chaetotaxy of epimeral region: Epimeral setae placed on striated membranous cuticle except for pes-iii-lat. Setae aes-i located at level posteriorly to camerostome; aes-ii-lat placed at posterior to insertion of leg II; aes-ii-v placed most medially; pes-iii-lat placed dorsally on epimeral plate of coxae III; pes-iii-v near medial margins of coxae III; pes-iv placed near coxae IV.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 20A): Genitoanal region surrounded with striated membranous cuticle. Genital foramen 66 μ m long, 38 μ m wide, occupying from level anterior to insertion of leg IV to level anterior to anal foramen. Genital sclerites band-like, furnished with one pair of very short, and two pairs of large internal genital acetabula.

Chaetotaxy of genitoanal region: Three filiform perigenital setae located on each side of genital foramen as arranged in Fig. 20A. Subgenital setae short filiform; one pair on genital sclerites, arranged 1-0. Anal foramen placed ventrally on membranous cuticle.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 19E): 54 μ m long, 62 μ m wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.16. Base, length/width 0.55. Rostrum 24 μ m long, nearly lanceolate, not reaching to level of distal end of palp. Rostral setae two pairs, at swollen point, both long and thick. Chelicera

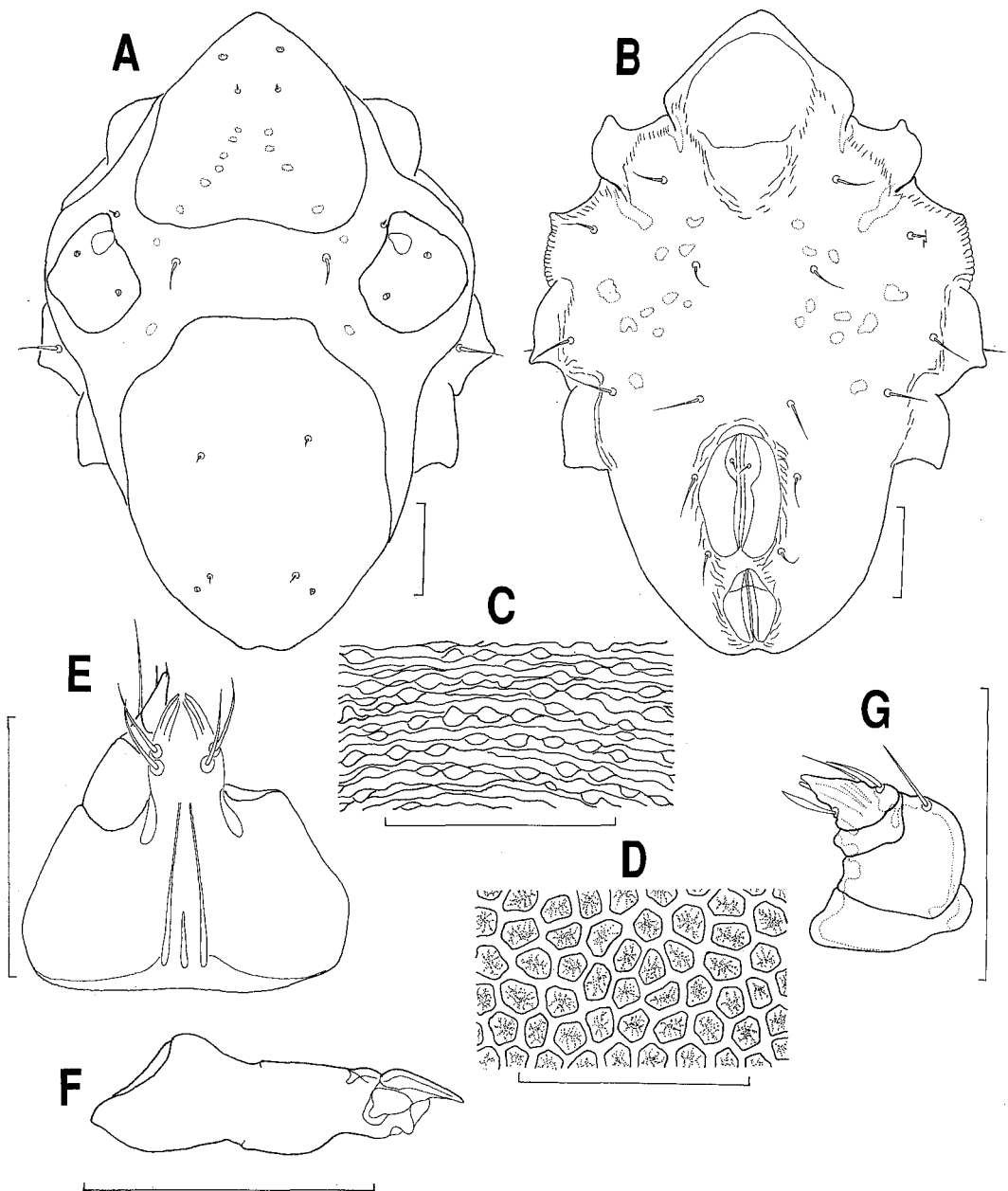


Fig. 19. *Isobactrus tuberculatus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr); C, striation of membranous cuticle (Ds); D, panels on PD; E, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); F, chelicera (R); G, palp (L). Scale bars=50 μ m.

(Fig. 19F) with basal segment 48 μ m long, and movable digit 16 μ m long, without distinct denticulation along dorsal edge. Fixed digit weakly developed. Palp (Fig. 19G) 38 μ m long; P-1 short and cylindrical; P-2 longest and robust, with a thick filiform seta distidorsally; P-3 short and cylindrical; P-4 conical, with two blade-like and one fine filiform setae inter-

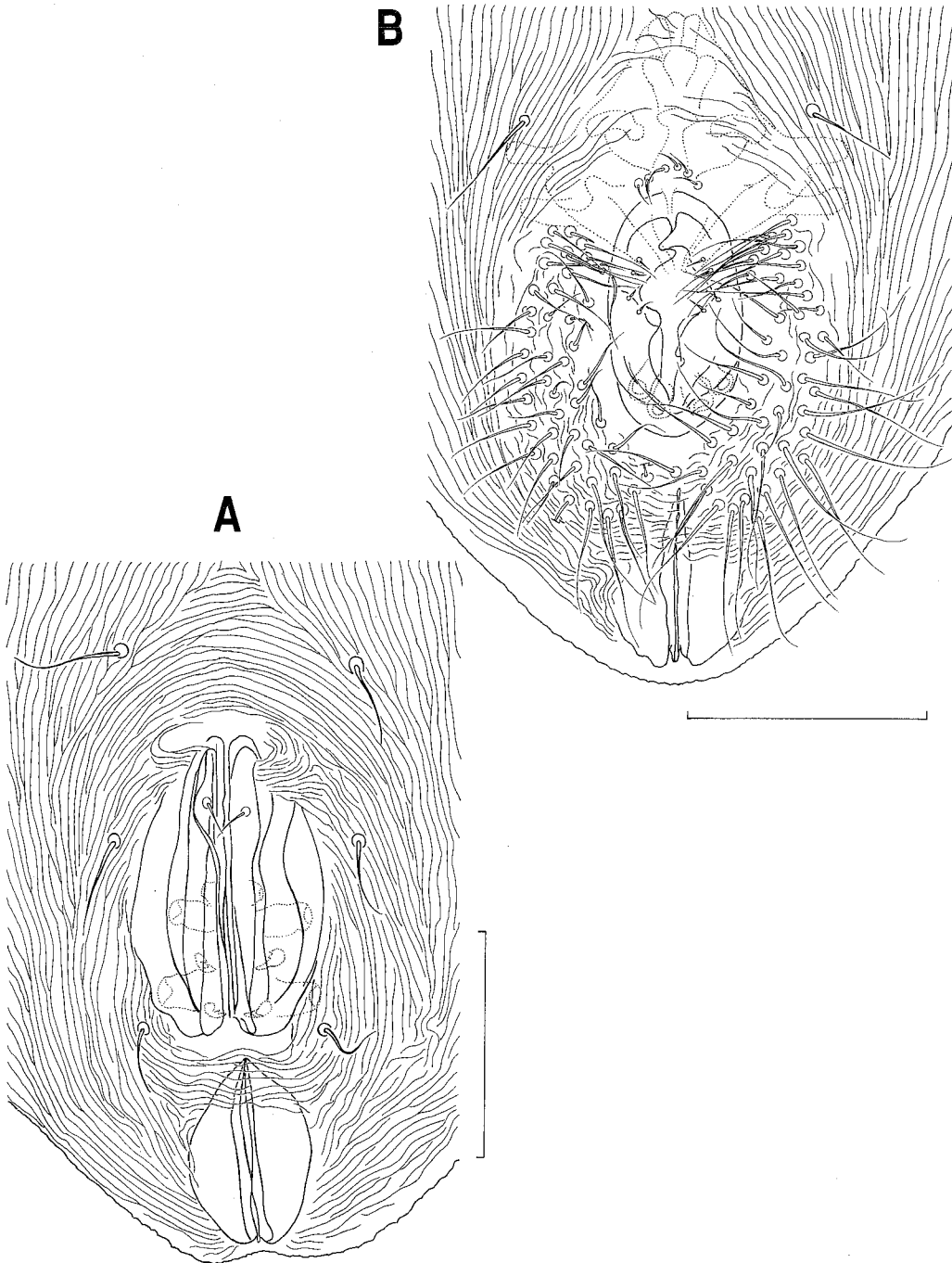


Fig. 20. *Isobactrus tuberculatus* sp. nov., genitoanal regions. A, female (holotype); B, male (allotype). Scale bars=50 μ m.

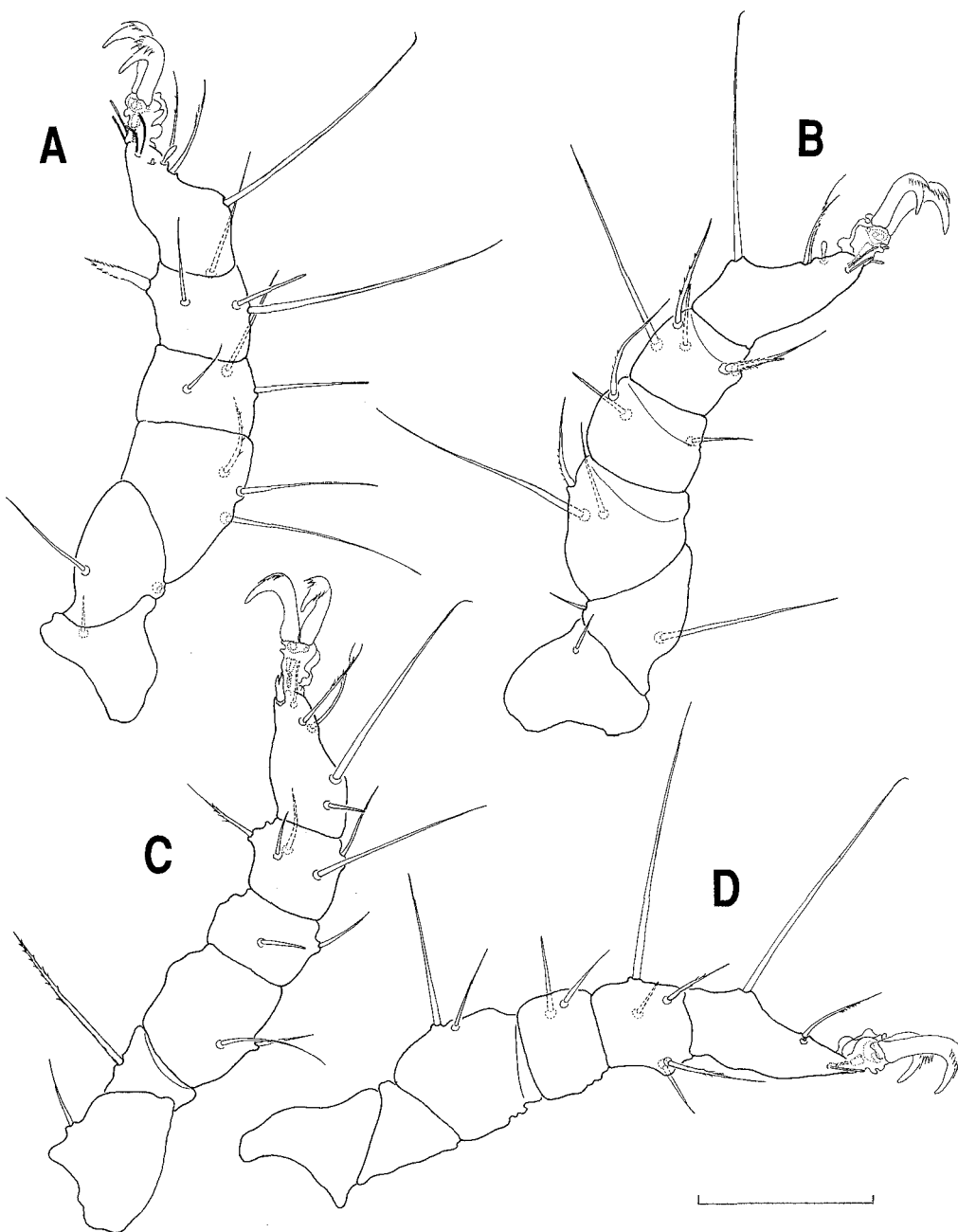


Fig. 21. *Isobactrus tuberculatus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, leg I (L); B, leg II (L); C, leg III (R); D, leg IV (R). Scale bar = 100 μ m.

mediately, and with two appressed blunt spiniform projections terminally.

Legs (Figs. 21A-D): Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 182, 172, 166, 166 μ m respectively. Ornamentation indistinct. Lateral claw with palmate accessory process, bearing six to eight delicate teeth.

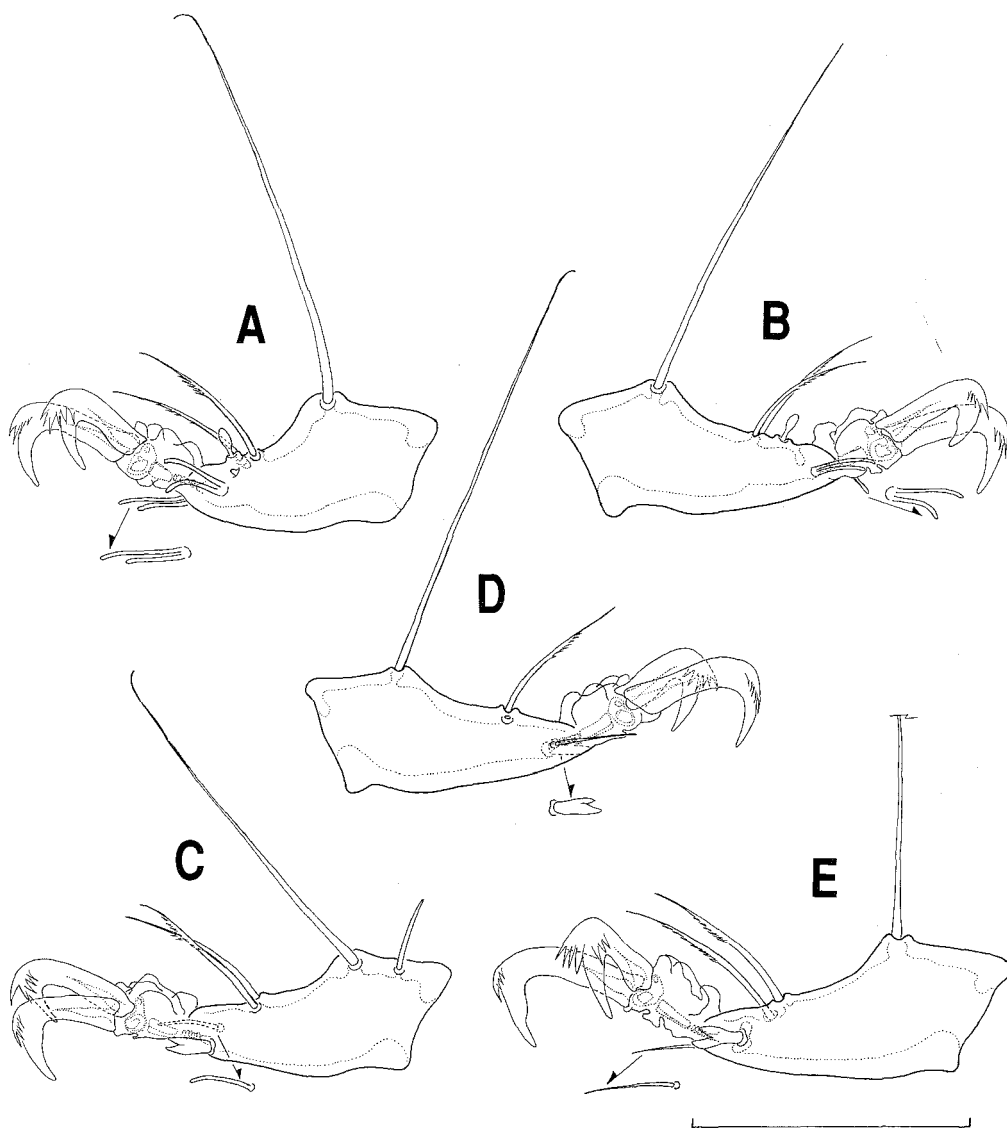


Fig. 22. *Isobactrus tuberculatus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, tarsus I (L); B, tarsus II (L); C, tarsus III (R); D, tarsus IV (R). Male (allotype). E, tarsus IV (R). Scale bar = 50 μ m.

Leg chaetotaxy as follows: Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-1-0; telofemora I-IV, 3-3-2-2; genua I-IV, 3-3-2-2; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. As for large bipectinate setae: Tibiae I-IV, 1-0-0-0. Tarsus I (Fig. 22A) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, one vestigial famulus, and four parambulacral setae (paired doublet euphathidia). Solenidion clavate on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus faint papilliform at just ventrally to solenidion. Tarsus II (Fig. 22B) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, and four parambulacral setae. Solenidion clavate on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Tarsus III (Fig. 22C) with four dorsal setae and two parambulacral setae (one single euphathidium on posterior surface, one divaricate proeuphathidium on anterior surface). Tarsus IV (Fig. 22D)

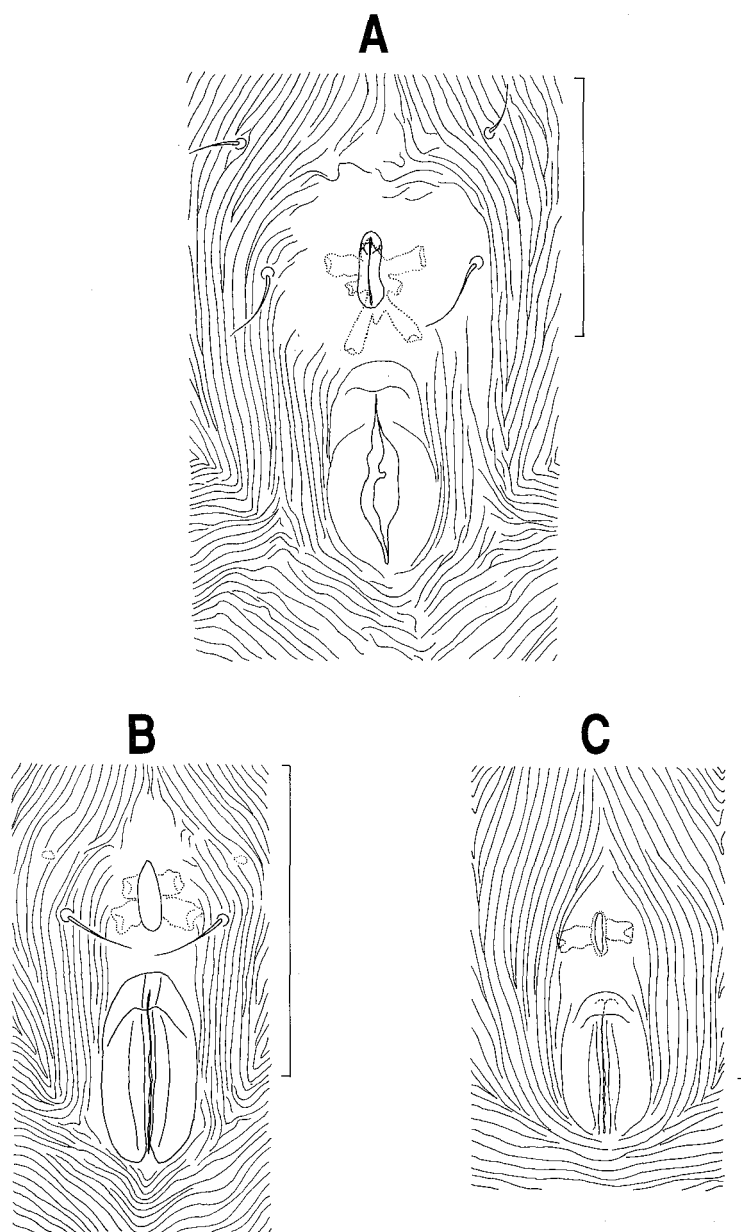


Fig. 23. *Isobactrus tuberculatus* sp. nov., genitoanal regions. A, tritonymph (paratype); B, deutonymph (paratype); C, protonymph (paratype). Scale bars = 50 μ m.

with three dorsal setae (one terminally bending filiform seta on basal claw fossa, two weakly plumose setae on distal claw fossa) and two parambulacral setae (one fine eupathidium on posterior surface, one divaricate proeupathidium on anterior surface).

Male (allotype)

Idiosoma 328 μm long, 236 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idosoma-length 0.18, resembling the female in essential respects except for character states of genitoanal region.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 20B) furnished with long filiform 98 perigenital setae as arranged in Fig. 20B. Membranous cuticle weakly sclerotized around genital foramen. Genital foramen 50 μm long, 28 μm wide. Subgenital setae four pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-2. Genital acetabula two pairs. Spermatophorotype (cf. Fig. 20B) 68 μm long, 70 μm wide, massive and rhombic.

Tarsus IV (Fig. 22E) resembles that in the female.

Tritonymph (paratype)

Idiosoma 268 μm long, 180 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idosoma-length 0.18.

Dorsum: AD 104 μm long, 96 μm wide, faintly concave posteriorly. PD 154 μm long, 112 μm wide, convex anteriorly. AD and PD separated by interval about a half of PD-length. OC 54 μm long. Two pairs of subsurface pores located between AD and PD.

Venter: Epimeral plate developed only on each coxal region. Epimeral region furnished with several subsurface pores medially.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 23A): Genital region furnished with two pairs of perigenital and one pair of faint subgenital setae. Primordial genital slit surrounded by weakly sclerotized membranous cuticle, furnished with three pairs of internal genital acetabula of which second pair is very short. Anal foramen ventrally placed on membranous cuticle.

Legs: Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 126, 128, 122, 126 μm respectively. Leg chaetotaxy of trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-1-0; telofemora I-IV, 3-3-2-2; genua I-IV, 3-3-2-2; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. Distinct bipectinate setae on tibiae I-IV, 1-0-0-0.

Deutonymph (paratype)

Idiosoma 224 μm long, 140 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idosoma-length 0.20.

Dorsum: AD 92 μm long, 74 μm wide, faintly concave posteriorly. PD 110 μm long, 90 μm wide, convex anteriorly. AD and PD separated by interval approximately one fourth of AD-length. OC 40 μm long. Two pairs of subsurface pores located between AD and PD.

Venter: Epimeral plate developed only on each coxal region. Epimeral region furnished with several subsurface pores medially.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 23B): Genital region furnished with one pair of perigenital setae, bearing a tiny subsurface pore on each lateral region. Primordial genital slit surrounded by faintly sclerotized membranous cuticle, furnished with two pairs of internal genital acetabula.

Legs: Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 106, 110, 110, 112 μm respectively. Leg chaetotaxy of trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-1-0; telofemora I-IV, 3-3-2-2; genua I-IV, 3-3-2-2; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. Distinct bipectinate setae on tibiae I-IV, 1-0-0-0.

Protonymph (paratype)

Idiosoma 200 μm long, 132 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idosoma-length 0.17.

Dorsum: AD 68 μm long, 54 μm wide, faintly concave posteriorly. PD 76 μm long, 56 μm wide, convex anteriorly. AD and PD separated by interval about AD-length. OC 38 μm long. Two pairs of subsurface pores located between AD and PD.

Venter: Epimeral plate developed only on each coxal region. Epimeral region furnished with several subsurface pores medially.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 23C): Genital region without genital setae. Primordial genital slit surrounded by faintly sclerotized membranous cuticle, furnished with one pair of internal genital acetabula.

Legs: Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 94, 96, 90, 84 μm respectively. Leg chaetotaxy of trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora (femur of leg IV) I-IV, 2-2-1-2; telofemora I-III, 3-3-2; genua I-IV, 3-3-2-2; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. Distinct bipectinate setae on tibiae I-IV, 1-

0-0-0.

Morphological variation and abnormality

The size range of the idiosoma, gnathosoma, and legs I-IV as follows.

Female (n=4). Idiosoma-length: 324-352 μm , -width: 228-236 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 54-62 μm , -width: 62-64 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 178-184 μm ; leg II, 172-182 μm ; leg III, 162-178 μm ; leg IV, 166-170 μm .

Male (n=2). Idiosoma-length: 328-340 μm , -width: 236-240 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 56-58 μm , -width: 64-68 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 168-180 μm ; leg II, 176-178 μm ; leg III, 168-170 μm ; leg IV, 162-172 μm .

Tritonymph (n=2). Idiosoma-length: 268-292 μm , -width: 180-204 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 48-50 μm , -width: 50-58 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 168-180 μm ; leg II, 176-178 μm ; leg III, 168-170 μm ; leg IV, 162-172 μm .

The leg chaetotaxy varies among adult specimens (n=6) as follows: Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-1-0; telofemora I-IV, 3-3-(1,2)-2; genua I-IV, 3-3-2-2; tibiae I-IV, (4,5)-(3,4,5)-5-5.

The number of the perigenital setae varies from 97 to 98 in the male.

Remarks

Isobactrus tuberculatus is easily discernible from the congeners by the combination of the following character states: 1) tuberculate dorsal membranous cuticle, 2) posterior dorsal plate with two dorsal setae, 3) accessory process palmate with six to eight delicate teeth.

I. tuberculatus is mainly collected at semi-closed shores near the mouths of rivers with a salinity range of about 3-32, and so it probably has tolerance to oligo- and mesohaline brackish water.

The specific epithet is derived from the tuberculate dorsal membranous cuticle.

Habitat—Intertidal zone: Algae - *Enteromorpha intestinalis* on gravels. Mussels - *Mytilus edulis* on flat. Coarse sandy sediment.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Oniwaki (Rishiri Island), Date, Shizunai.

Genus *Rhombognathus* Trouessart, 1888

[Japanese name: Kaisoudani]

Diagnosis. Ocular plates each with two setae and usually two corneae. Dorsal setae four or five pairs in addition to one pair of adanal setae. Ventral plates often fused into single plate. Anterior and posterior epimeral plates each furnished with 1-3 adjunctive setae. Genital opening of the female ventrally placed. Subgenital setae of the female usually two pairs. Perigenital setae of the male often branched. Tarsus I furnished with bacilliform solenidion and papilliform famulus, and Tarsus II with one bacilliform solenidion. Carpite rod-like. All tarsi with two claws.

Key to species

- 1a. Three dorsal setae present on tarsus of the third leg. More than 30 perigenital setae present on each side of genital foramen in the female. *tenuiformis* sp. nov.
- 1b. Four dorsal setae present on tarsus of the third leg. Less than 30 perigenital setae present on each side of genital foramen in the female. 2
- 2a. One pair of dorsal setae present on posterior dorsal plate. Ventral plates completely fused into a single plate in adults. 3
- 2b. Two pairs of dorsal setae present on posterior dorsal plate. Ventral plates at least partly incised with membranous cuticle, and not completely fused in adults. 5

- 3a. Accessory process not typical palmate type, bearing two or three long fine teeth. Rostrum rectangular in form. Posterior dorsal plate uniformly ornamented with reticulated panels, and costae completely absent. *teurinus* sp. nov.
- 3b. Accessory process palmate type, and bearing several fine teeth. Rostrum lanceolate in form. 4
- 4a. Posterior margin of anterior dorsal plate strongly convex. Posterior dorsal plate ornamented with clear panels. *sinensis* Bartsch, 1990
- 4b. Posterior margin of anterior dorsal plate rounded. Posterior dorsal plate ornamented with reticulated panels. *incertus* sp. nov.
- 5a. Genital acetabula two pairs in adults. Five ventral plates, and two pairs of perigenital setae present in the female. Perigenital setae in the male filiform, not branched. *neotenus* sp. nov.
- 5b. Genital acetabula three pairs in adults. Perigenital setae in the male branched. .. 6
- 6a. Three plates present on venter in the female. Right and left posterior epimeral, and genital plates fused into a single plate in the female. Two pairs of perigenital setae present in the female. *dissociatus* Abé, 1990
- 6b. Anal plate completely separated from the another plate by a wide strip of striated membranous cuticle in the female. Three pairs of perigenital setae present in the female. 7
- 6c. Anal plate partly separated from the another plate by lateral incisions of membranous cuticle in the female. More than three pairs of perigenital setae present in the female. 8
- 7a. The position of setae pes-iv-a approximately same as or more medial than that of setae aes-ii-v. Posterior dorsal plate laterally exserted at terminal end. Accessory process bearing very faint tooth. *medialis* sp. nov.
- 7b. The position of setae pes-iv-a clearly lateral than that of setae aes-ii-v. Posterior dorsal plate not exserted at terminal end. Lateral claw completely smooth. *leurodactylus* Krantz, 1976
- 8a. Four pairs of short perigenital setae present in the female. Paneling on dorsal plates clear. Accessory process palmate type with several teeth. *ezoensis* Abé, 1990
- 8b. Five pairs of long perigenital setae present in the female. Paneling on dorsal plates inconspicuous. Accessory process palmate type with several teeth. *atuy* Abé, 1990
- 8c. More than 10 perigenital setae present on each side of genital foramen in the female. Accessory process bearing long delicate teeth. *compressus* sp. nov.

***Rhombognathus atuy* Abé 1990**

[Japanese name: Umibe-kaisoudani]

(Figs. 24-27)

Rhombognathus atuy Abé 1990b, 517-523, figs. 1-4.

Specimens examined. One female (paratype), on *Sargassum* sp. at 0.5 m depth in tide pool, intertidal, Usujiri, Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 12.vi.1986, H. Abé coll. ; 1 male (paratype) and 1 tritonymph, on *Corallina* sp. at 0.1 m depth in tide pool, intertidal, Mitsuishi, Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 8.xii. 1988, H. Abé coll.

Female (paratype)

Dorsum (Fig. 24A): AD weakly convex anteriorly and protruded posteriorly, ornamented with chevron-shaped areolation posteriorly. OC furnished with two large corneae. PD furnished with two pairs of setae (ds-iv and ds-v).

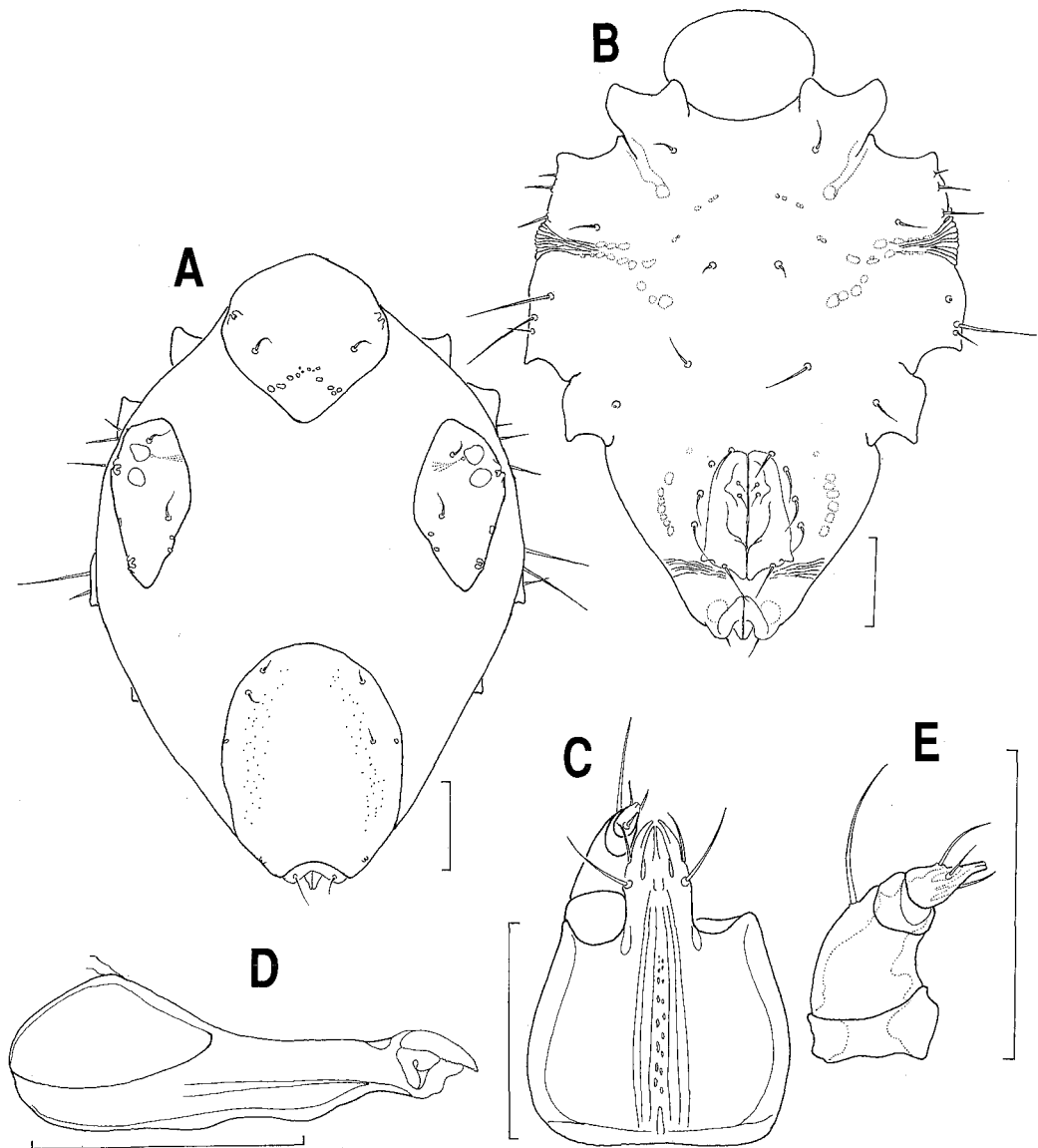


Fig. 24. *Rhombognathus atuy* Abé, 1990, female (paratype). A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr); C, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); D, chelicera (R); E, palp (L). Scale bars=50 μ m.

Venter (Fig. 24B): Epimeral and genital plates fused to form a single plate, and anal plate partly fused. Setae aes-ii-adj located on lateral margins, each consisting of three setae; pes-iii-adj placed dorsolaterally, each consisting of one seta. Genitoanal region (Fig. 25A) slightly incised laterally with membranous cuticle. Genital acetabula three pairs. Spermatheca bilobed. Five pairs of long thick filiform perigenital setae located around genital foramen. Subgenital setae short filiform; two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Adanal setae placed on anal papilla dorsoproximally.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 24C): Rostrum nearly lanceolate, not reaching to level of distal end of

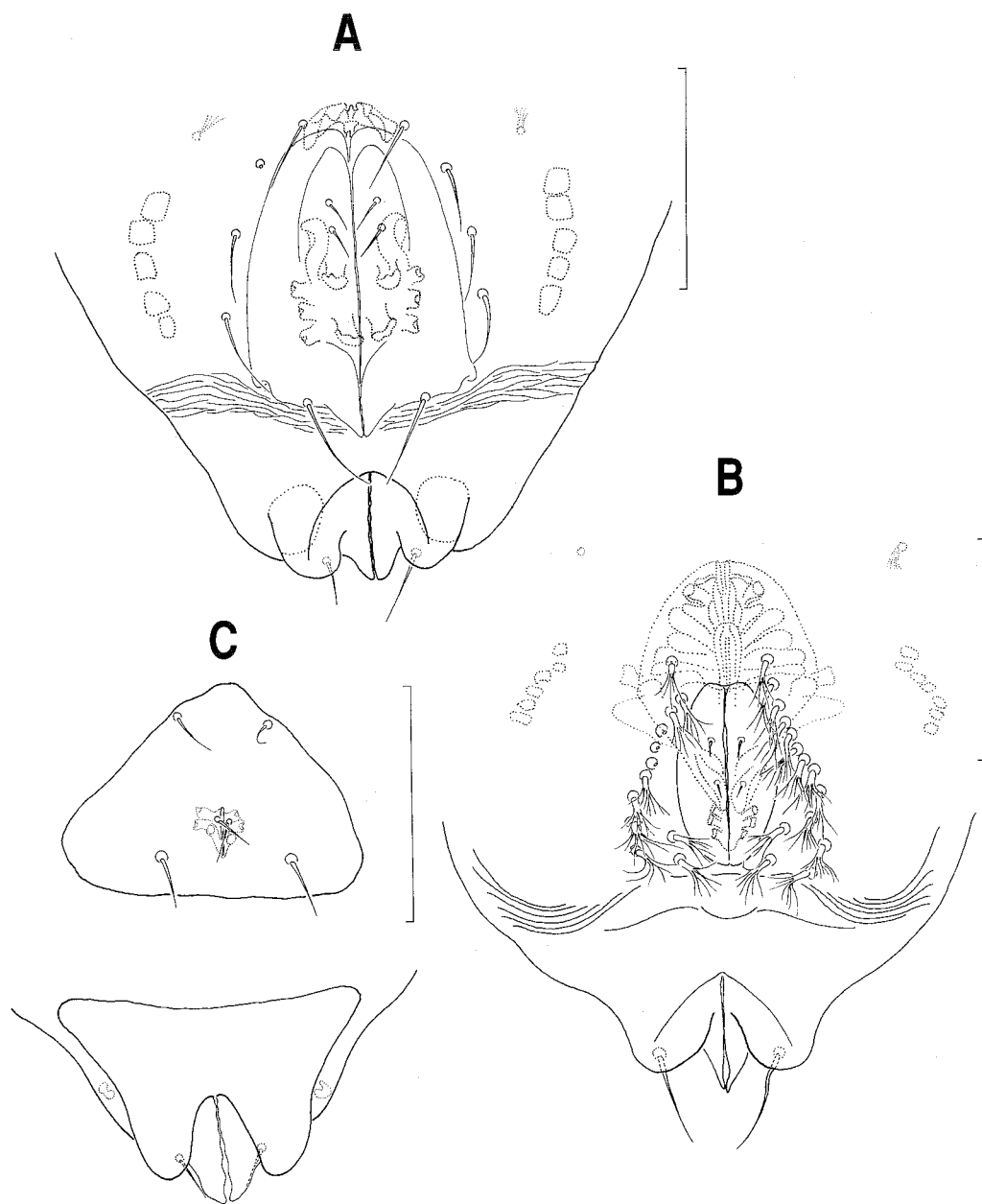


Fig. 25. *Rhombognathus atuy* Abé, 1990, genitoanal regions. A, female (paratype); B, male (paratype); C, tritonymph. Scale bars=50 μ m.

palp. Rostral setae two pairs. Chelicera (Fig. 24D) elongate, with movable digit bearing 11-12 minute denticles along dorsal edge. Palp (Fig. 24E) typical form in the genus.

Legs (Figs. 26A-D): Short seta usually rough; long seta smooth. Lateral claw with palmate accessory process. Solenidion (cf. Figs. 27A,B) long bacilliform on posterodorsal

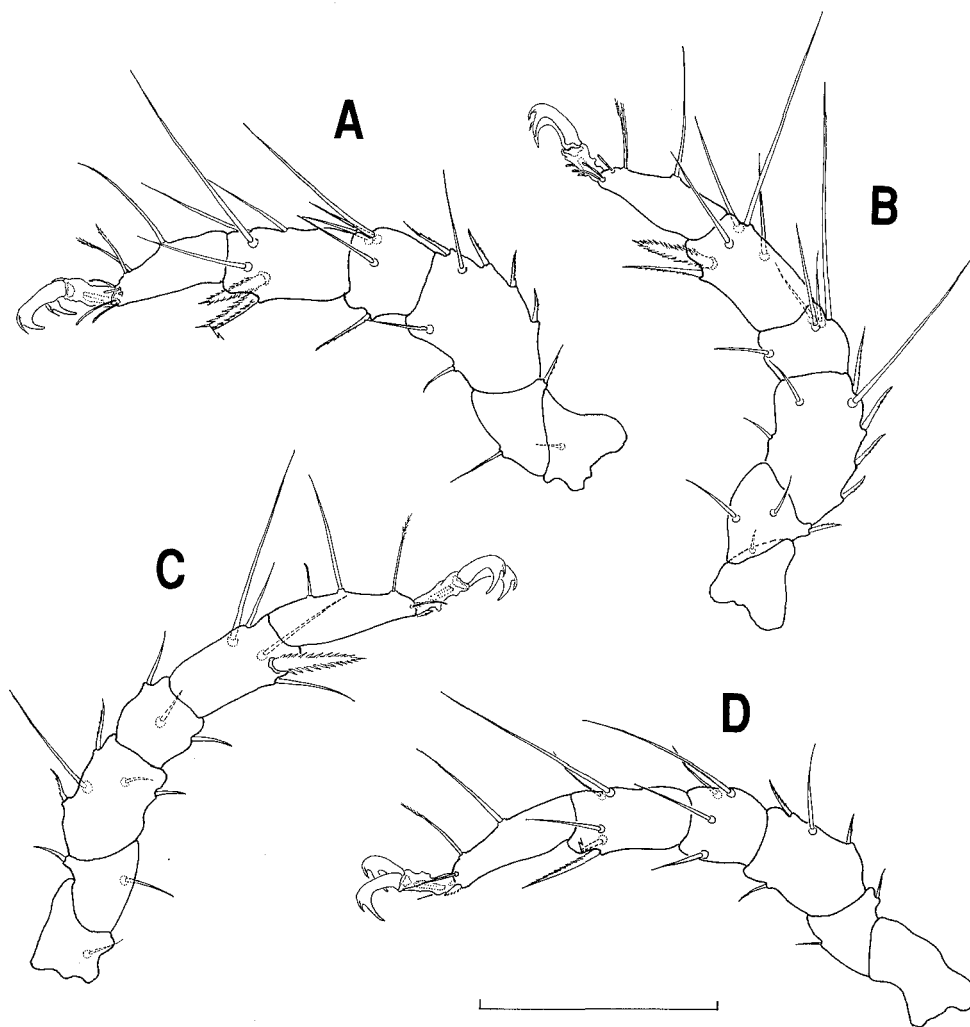


Fig. 26. *Rhombognathus atuy* Abé, 1990, female (paratype). A, leg I (L); B, leg II (L); C, leg III (R); D, leg IV (R). Scale bar = 100 μ m.

surface of claw fossa. Famulus (cf. Fig. 27A) papilliform with fine canaliculus at just ventroproximally to solenidion. Tarsus III (Fig. 27C) with four dorsal setae. Tarsus IV (Fig. 27D) with three dorsal setae (one long filiform seta on basal claw fossa, one plumose seta on claw fossa, one fine filiform seta on anterodorsal surface) and two parambulacral setae (one single euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Male (paratype)

Genitoanal region (Fig. 25B) furnished with branched perigenital setae. Subgenital setae two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Genital acetabula three pairs. Spermatophorotype massive and obovate.

Tarsus IV (Fig. 27E) furnished with three dorsal setae (one long thick filiform seta on

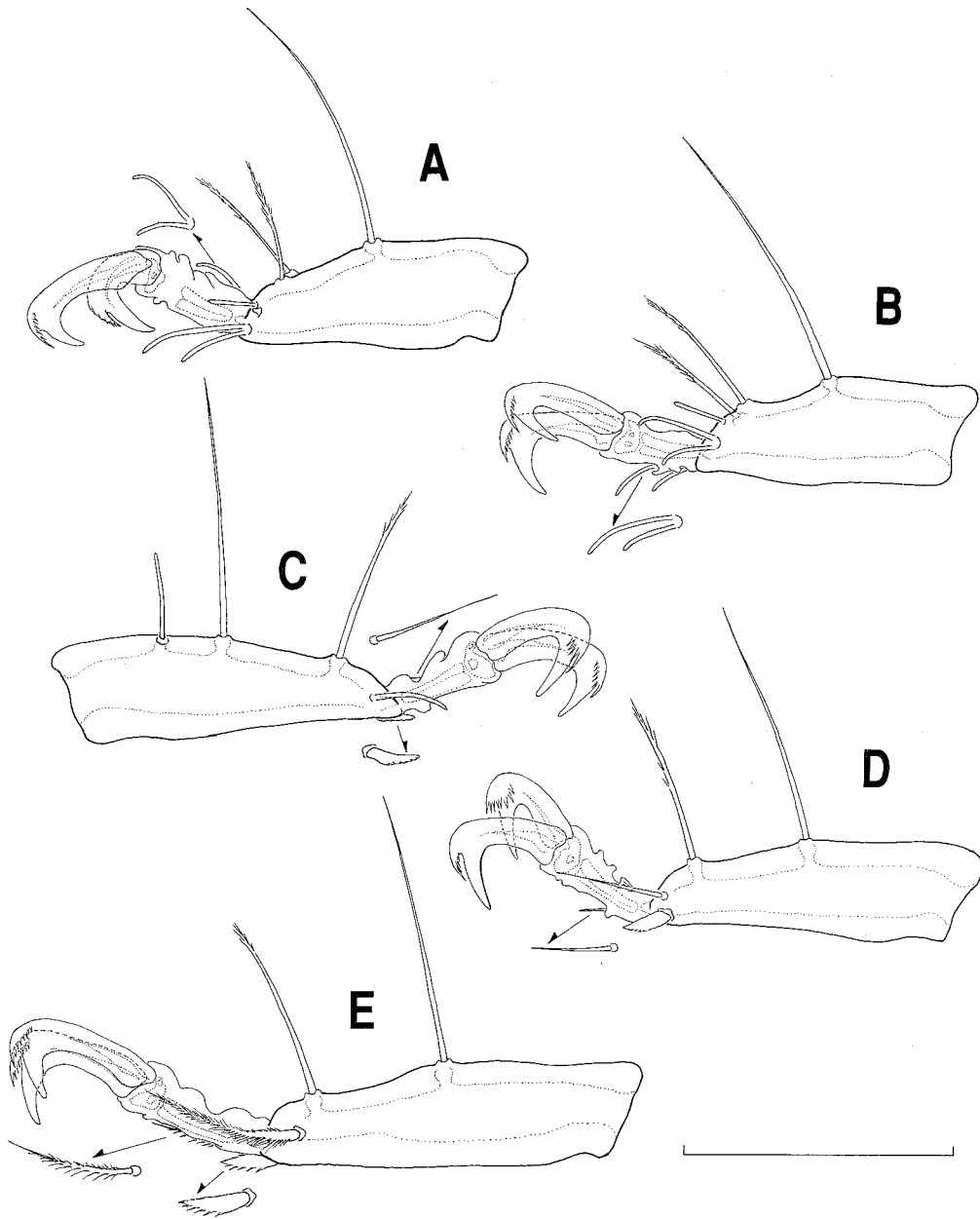


Fig. 27. *Rhombognathus atuy* Abé, 1990, female (paratype). A, tarsus I (L); B, tarsus II (L); C, tarsus III (R); D, tarsus IV (R). Male (paratype). E, tarsus IV (R). Scale bar = 50 μ m.

basal claw fossa, one plumose seta on claw fossa, one delicate plumose seta on anterodorsal surface of claw fossa) and two parambulacral setae (one long plumose proeuphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Table 1. Summary of critical taxonomic characters for *R. sinensoideus* and *R. atuy*.

Characters	Character states	
	<i>R. atuy</i>	<i>R. sinensoideus</i>
No. of dorsal plates	4 plates	4 plates
No. of dorsal setae on PD	2 pairs	2 pairs
No. of epimeral plates	single plate	single plate
No. of adj on AE	2-3 pairs	2-3 pairs
No. of adj on PE	1-2 pairs	1 pair
No. of perigenital setae in the female	5 pairs	5 pairs
No. of perigenital setae in the male	11-12 pairs	10-13 pairs
Form of accessory process	9-12 teeth	ca. 15 teeth
No. of setae of basifemur II	3 setae	3 setae
Telofemora I-IV :	7-(6,7)-5-4	6-6-(4,5)-(4,5)
Genua I-IV :	5-(4,5)-3-4	5-5-(3,4)-4
Tibiae I-IV :	6-6-(5,6)-5	6-6-5-5
Large bipectinate setae of tibiae I-IV :	2-1-1-1	2-1-1-1

Tritonymph

Idiosoma 348 μm long, 208 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.19.

Dorsum : AD 60 μm long, 62 μm wide, concave posteriorly. PD 100 μm long, 72 μm wide, convex anteriorly. AD and PD separated by interval about two times as long as PD. OC 70 μm long.

Venter : AE 78 μm long, 168 μm wide, furnished with a number of subsurface pores medially as well as along posterior margin, with two aes-ii-adj on each lateral margin. PE 96 μm long, furnished with several subsurface pores along anteroventral margin. A small subsurface pore placed on membranous cuticle medially on each side.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 25C) : Genital plate 60 μm long, 60 μm wide, bluntly protruded anteriorly, nearly truncated posteriorly, furnished with two pairs of perigenital and one pair of subgenital setae, bearing a tiny subsurface pore on each lateral margin. Primordial genital slit with three pairs of internal genital acetabula. Anal plate small, nearly truncated anteriorly.

Legs : Leg chaetotaxy of trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-3-2-2; telofemora I-IV, 6-6-4-4; genua I-IV, 5-5-3-4; tibiae I-IV, 6-6-5-5. Distinct bipectinate setae on tibiae I-IV : 2-1-1-1.

Morphological variation and abnormality

The number of setae aes-ii-adj and pes-iii-adj on each side of idiosoma varies from two to three, and zero to one respectively. The number of the perigenital setae on each side of the genital foramen varies from 11 to 12 in the male, five to six in the female. The leg chaetotaxy varies among adult specimens as follows: Trochanters I-IV, (0,1)-(0,1)-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-3-2-2; telofemora I-IV, 7-(6,7)-5-4; genua I-IV, 5-(4,5)-3-4; tibiae I-IV, 6-6-(5,6)-5.

Remarks

Rhombognathus atuy is distinguished from the congeners by the following character states: 1) dorsal plates separated, and with weak paneling, 2) posterior dorsal plate with one pair of setae, 3) perigenital setae five pairs in the female, 11-12 pairs in the male, 4) bipectinate setae of tibia I-IV : 2-1-1-1, 5) lateral claw with palmate accessory process bearing 9-12 teeth.

In the original description (Abé, 1990b, p. 518), the author noted "(AD) without distinct

dorsal pore." This description, however, is due to a misobservation, and a polygonal dorsal pore exists on each lateral margin of AD.

Bartsch (1992) described *Rhombognathus sinensoides* from the coast of Hong Kong. Judging from the original description and from the examination of two males (No. As167, As168) in the private collection of I. Bartsch, the character states of critical taxonomic characters in *R. sinensoides* is almost accord with those in *R. atuy* (Table 1). Only a discernible difference between these two species is the leg chaetotaxy of telofemora. *R. sinensoides* has six (2 ventral/4 dorsal) setae on telofemur I, while *R. atuy* has seven (2 ventral/5 dorsal) setae. Leg chaetotaxy, however, is apt to vary especially on short setae. Hence, although I here treat these two forms as two distinct species, there remains a possibility that these two species might be two geographical forms of one species. Further information especially on the geographic variation is indispensable to solve this question.

Habitat—Intertidal zone: Algae - *Enteromorpha intestinalis* on gravels, *Sargassum thunbergii*, *S. fulvellum*, *S. sagamianum*, *Cystoseira hakodatensis*, *Neorhodomela aculeata*, *Corallina pilulifera*, *Sargassum* sp., *Corallina* sp. in tide pool. Polychaeta - *Pseudopotamilla ocellata* in tide pool. Mussels - *Mytilus edulis*, *Septifer virgatus* on ledge. Barnacles - *Balanus cariosus* on flat. Coarse sandy sediment. Boulders.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Teuri Island, Atsuta, Oshoro, Tomari, Kikonai, Usujiri, Usu, Muroran, Tomakomai, Mitsuishi, Erimo, Esashi.

***Rhombognathus compressus* sp. nov.**

[Japanese name: Hirata-kaisoudani]

(Figs. 28–31)

Type series. Holotype: Female, on *Enteromorpha intestinalis* on gravels at a depth of 0.1 m, intertidal, Lake Akkeshi (Kamu-iwa), Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 2.vi.1988, H. Abé coll. Allotype: Male, data same as the holotype. Paratypes: 5 females, 5 males, and 1 tritonymph, data same as the holotype; 1 deutonymph, on *Pelvetia wrightii* on tetrapod at a depth of 0.1 m, intertidal, Odaitô, Okhotsk coast of Hokkaido, 21.xii.1989, H. Abé coll.

Female (holotype)

Idiosoma 384 μm long, 260 μm wide. Color in life dark green.

Dorsum (Fig. 28A): Dorsal plate ornamented with clear panels, and partly with fine canaliculi. AD and PD separated by interval less than AD-length. AD 92 μm long, 112 μm wide, truncated posteriorly, ornamented with fine areolation posteriorly, with a dorsal pore near each lateral margin. OC 102 μm long, extending anteriorly to level of posterior margin of AD, reaching posteriorly at level slightly anterior to insertion of leg III, furnished with two large corneae and two large polygonal pores, bearing one tiny pore-like structure anteriorly to posterior pore, one maze-like subsurface pore medially to anterior cornea, and two tiny subsurface pores near posteromedial margin. Areolation indistinct. PD 208 μm long, 132 μm wide, reaching anteriorly to level of insertion of leg III, furnished with a small subsurface pore on lateral margin, and with dorsal pore on posterolateral margin on each side. Costae inconspicuous.

Chaetotaxy of dorsal region: All dorsal setae short. Setae ds-i on AD; ds-ii each on OC near anterior margin; ds-iii each on OC near medial margin; ds-iv and ds-v on PD, near anterolateral margin.

Venter (Fig. 28B): Epimeral and genital plates fused to form a single plate, and anal plate partly fused. Ventral plates are entirely reticulated with faint panels. Epimeral region furnished with several subsurface pores medially, and with epimeral pore between insertions of leg I and leg II on each side, weakly incised laterally with membranous cuticle bordering

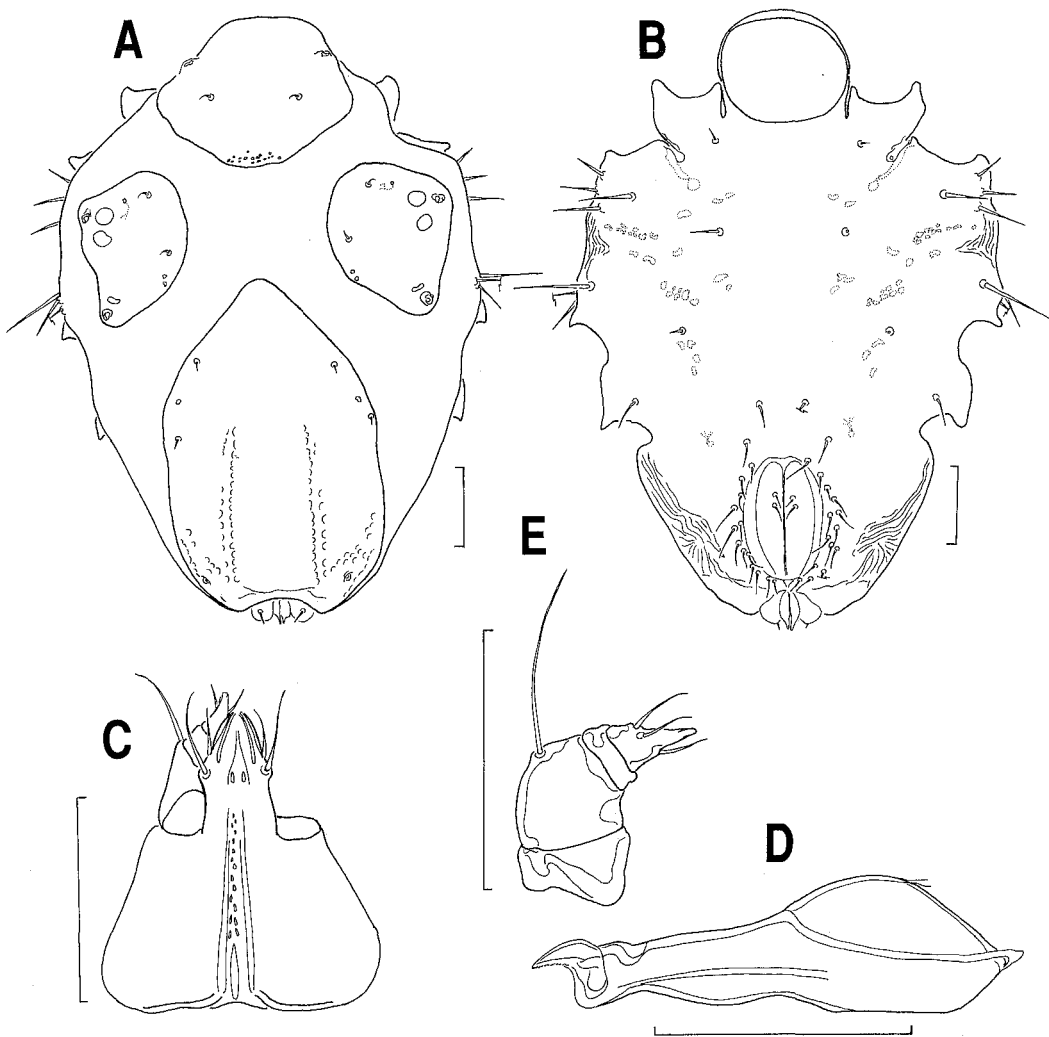


Fig. 28. *Rhombognathus compressus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr); C, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); D, chelicera (L); E, palp (L). Scale bars=50 μ m.

several subsurface pores between insertions of leg II and leg III.

Chaetotaxy of epimeral region: Setae aes-i located at posteriorly to camerostome; aes-ii-lat placed medially at level posterior to insertion of leg II; aes-ii-v placed most medially at level slightly anterior to lateral incision; aes-ii-adj located on lateral margins, each consisting of three setae; pes-iii-lat placed dorsally on posterior epimeral region; pes-iii-v near lateral margins; pes-iv-a placed medially, at level of insertion of leg III; pes-iv-p located at level anterior to insertion of leg IV; pes-iii-adj placed dorsolaterally, each consisting of one seta.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 29A): Genitoanal region incised laterally with membranous cuticle, furnished with two round subsurface pores on anterior portion of genital region. Genital foramen 76 μ m long, 48 μ m wide, occupying from level slightly posterior to insertion of leg IV to level anterior to anal foramen. Genital sclerites band-like, with three pairs of

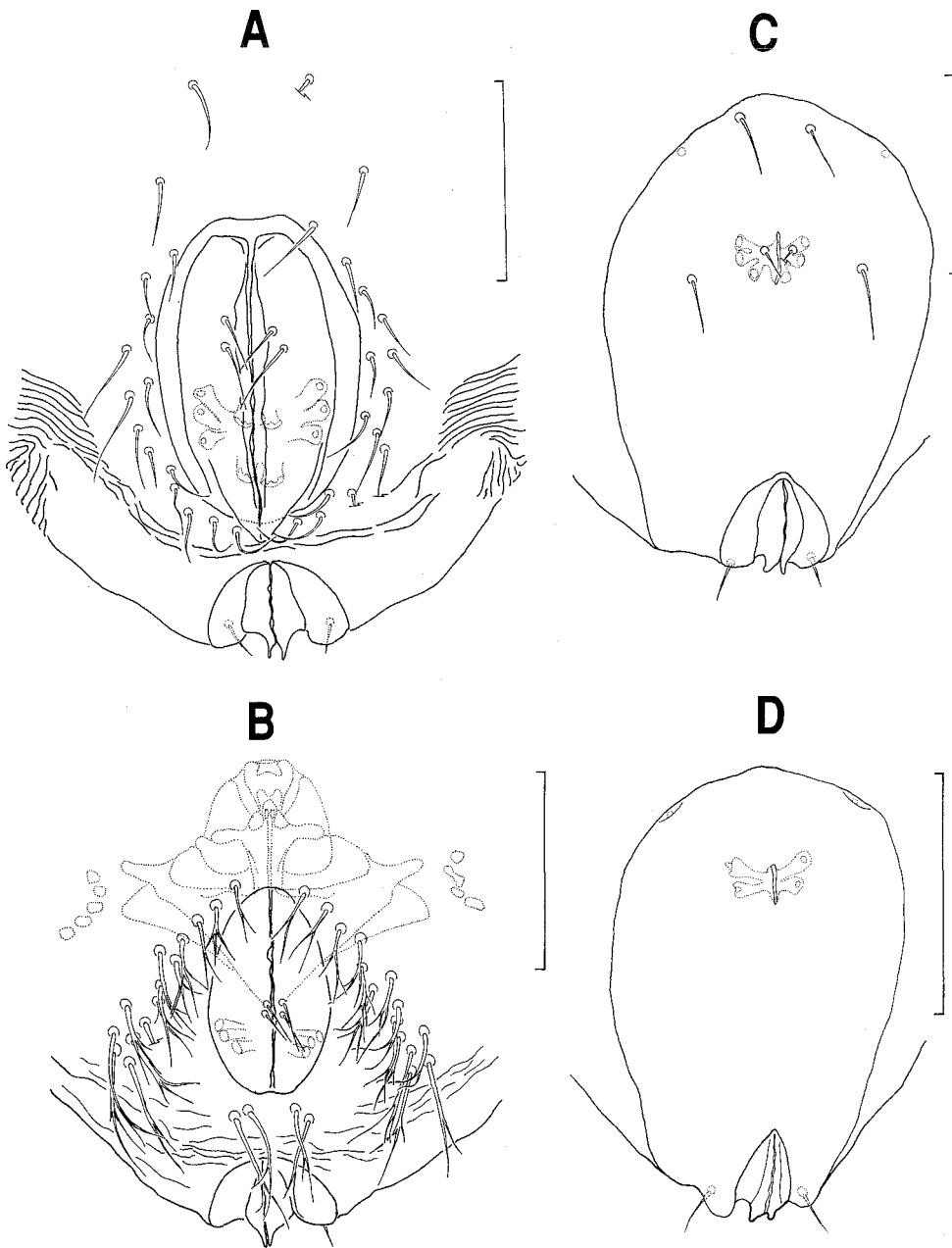


Fig. 29. *Rhombognathus compressus* sp. nov., genitoanal regions. A, female (holotype); B, male (paratype); C, tritonymph (paratype); D, deutonymph (paratype). Scale bars=50 μ m.

internal genital acetabula. Spermatheca indistinct.

Chaetotaxy of genitoanal region: 16 and 15 filiform perigenital setae located at each side of genital foramen as arranged in Fig. 29A. Subgenital setae filiform; two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Adanal setae placed on anal papilla dorsoproximally.

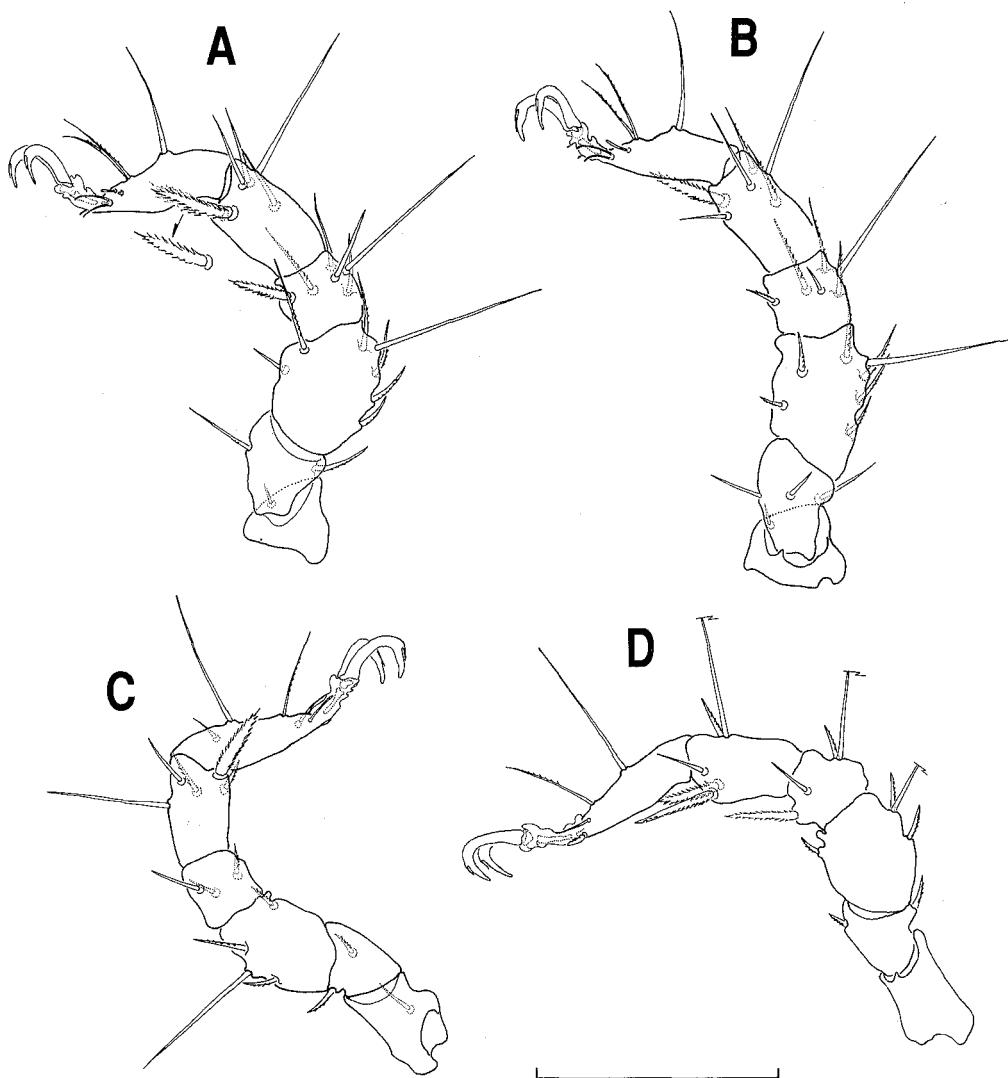


Fig. 30. *Rhombognathus compressus* sp. nov., female (paratype). A, leg I (L); B, leg II (L); C, leg III (R); D, leg IV (R). Scale bar = 100 μ m.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 28C): 74 μ m long, 70 μ m wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.19. Base, length/width 0.64. Rostrum 36 μ m long, nearly lanceolate, not reaching to level of distal end of palp. Rostral setae two pairs as follows: Proximal pair long and robust, at swollen point; distal pair short, at just anterior to proximal pair. Chelicera (Fig. 28D) with basal segment 80 μ m long, and movable digit 14 μ m long, bearing 10–12 minute denticles along dorsal edge. Fixed digit weakly developed. Palp (Fig. 28E) 44 μ m long; P-1 short and cylindrical; P-2 longest and robust, with a long filiform seta distodorsally; P-3 short and cylindrical; P-4 conical, with three short and thick filiform setae intermediately, and with two appressed blunt spiniform projections terminally.

Legs (Figs. 30A–D): Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 218, 222, 210, 222 μ m respectively.

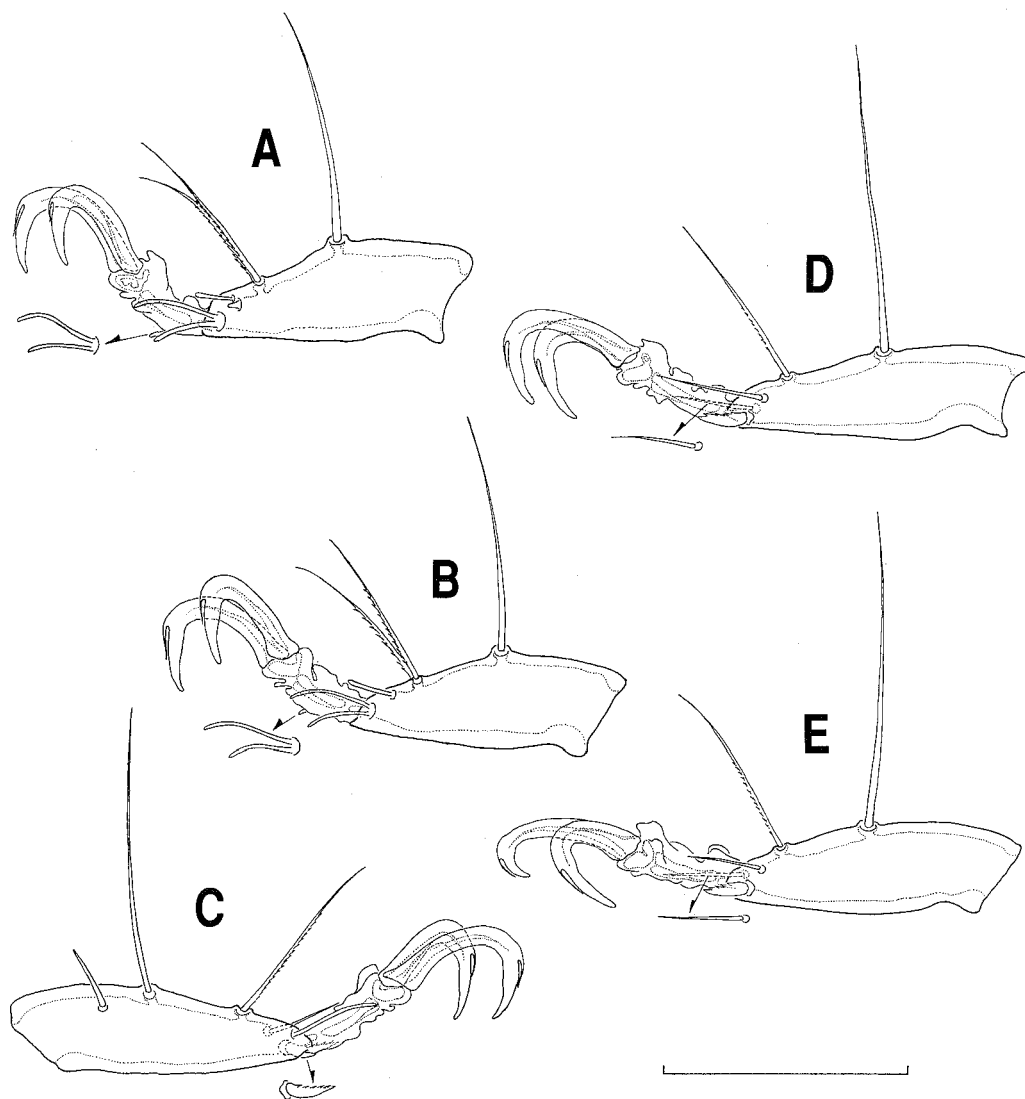


Fig. 31. *Rhombognathus compressus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, tarsus I (L); B, tarsus II (L); C, tarsus III (R); D, tarsus IV (R). Male (allotype). E, tarsus IV (R). Scale bar = 50 μ m.

Ornamentation indistinct. Lateral claw with a long delicate tooth.

Leg chaetotaxy as follows: Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-3-2-2; telofemora I-IV, 7-7-4-4; genua I-IV, 6-6-3-4; tibiae I-IV, 6-6-5-5. As for large bipectinate setae: Genua I-IV, 1-0-0-1; tibiae I-IV, 2-1-1-2. Tarsus I (Fig. 31A) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, one famulus, and four parambulacral setae (paired doublet euphathidia). Solenidion long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus papilliform with fine canaliculus at just ventrally to solenidion. Tarsus II (Fig. 31B) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, and four parambulacral setae. Solenidion long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Tarsus III (Fig. 31C) with four dorsal setae and two

parambulacral setae (one single euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface). Tarsus IV (Fig. 31D) with three dorsal setae (one long filiform seta on basal claw fossa, one faintly plumose seta on distal claw fossa, one fine filiform seta on anterodorsal surface) and two parambulacral setae (one filiform euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Male (allotype)

Idiosoma 356 μm long, 256 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idosoma-length 0.21, resembling the female in essential respects except for character states of genitoanal region.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 29B) furnished with a round subsurface pore, and a series of polygonal subsurface pores on each side of genital foramen, bearing branched 16 perigenital setae on each side of the foramen as arranged in Fig. 29B. Genital foramen 52 μm long, 28 μm wide. Subgenital setae two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Genital acetabula three pairs. Spermatophorotype (cf. Fig. 29B) 72 μm long, 70 μm wide, massive and rhombic.

Tarsus IV (Fig. 31E) similar to that in the female.

Tritonymph (paratype)

Idiosoma 324 μm long, 224 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idosoma-length 0.20.

Dorsum: AD 78 μm long, 92 μm wide. PD 140 μm long, 102 μm wide, protruded anteriorly, furnished with two dorsal setae. AD and PD separated by interval about PD-length. OC 76 μm long.

Venter: AE 68 μm long, 184 μm wide, furnished with two aes-ii-adj on each lateral margin. A pair of small subsurface pores placed on membranous cuticle posteriorly to AE. PE 98 μm long, furnished with several subsurface pores along anteroventral margin. Pes-iii-adj absent.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 29C): Genital plate 108 μm long, 84 μm wide, rounded anteriorly, furnished with two pairs of perigenital and one pair of subgenital setae, bearing a tiny subsurface pore on each anterolateral margin. Primordial genital slit with three pairs of internal genital acetabula. Anal plate small, nearly truncated anteriorly.

Legs: Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 176, 172, 172, 174 μm respectively. Leg chaetotaxy of trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-3-2-2; telofemora I-IV, 6-6-4-4; genua I-IV, 6-6-3-4; tibiae I-IV, 6-6-5-5. Distinct bipectinate setae on genua I-IV, 1-0-0-1; tibiae I-IV, 2-1-1-2.

Deutonymph (paratype)

Idiosoma 240 μm long, 160 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idosoma-length 0.23.

Dorsum: Dorsal plates relatively well developed like adults. AD 66 μm long, 72 μm wide, nearly truncated posteriorly. OC 64 μm long. PD 124 μm long, 84 μm wide, furnished with two dorsal setae.

Venter: AE 60 μm long, 140 μm wide, furnished with one aes-ii-adj. PE 80 μm long, without pes-iii-adj.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 29D): Genital plate 90 μm long, 62 μm wide, furnished with primordial genital slit, two pairs of internal genital acetabula, and two round tiny subsurface pores. Genital seta absent.

Legs: Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 150, 148, 140, 138 μm respectively. Leg chaetotaxy of trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-3-2-1; telofemora I-IV, 4-4-3-2; genua I-IV, 5-5-3-4; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. Distinct bipectinate setae on genua I-IV, 1-0-0-0; tibiae I-IV, 2-1-1-1.

Morphological variation and abnormality

The size range of the idiosoma, gnathosoma, and legs I-IV as follows.

Female (n=6). Idiosoma-length: 384-412 μm , -width: 288-308 μm ; gnathosoma-length:

74–84 μm , -width: 70–74 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 218–250 μm ; leg II, 208–244 μm ; leg III, 210–242 μm ; leg IV, 222–246 μm .

Male (n=6). Idiosoma-length: 332–372 μm , -width: 244–272 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 68–76 μm , -width: 64–70 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 200–238 μm ; leg II, 208–238 μm ; leg III, 204–224 μm ; leg IV, 206–230 μm .

One specimen has two pes-iii-adj on right side of idiosoma. Spermatheca is indistinct in some specimens. The length of perigenital setae in the female varies among specimens. The number of the perigenital setae on each side of the genital foramen varies from 14 to 17 in the female, 13 to 18 in the male. Basilar perigenital setae in the male varies from two to four.

The leg chaetotaxy varies among adult specimens as follows: Trochanters I–IV, 1–1–1–0; basifemora I–IV, 2–3–(1,2)–2; telofemora I–IV, 7–7–(4,5)–4; genua I–IV, (5,6)–(5,6)–3–4; tibiae I–IV, 6–6–(4,5)–(4,5). One deutonymph specimen has one additional dorsal seta on tarsus II.

Remarks

Rhombognathus compressus is a member of the species characterized by having three setae on the basifemur of the second leg, viz. *R. ambiguus* Newell, 1984; *R. atuy* Abé 1990; *R. darwini* Newell, 1984; *R. dissociatus* Abé 1990; *R. ezoensis* Abé 1990; *R. heterosetosus* Bartsch, 1977; *R. hirtellus* Bartsch, 1992; *R. leurodactylus* Krantz, 1976; *R. lionyx* Trouesart, 1899; *R. multisetosus* Newell, 1984; *R. reticulatus* Krantz, 1976; *R. sandwich* Newell, 1984; *R. subtilis* Bartsch, 1975. Moreover, the present species is recognizable on the basis of the presence of 14–17 perigenital setae on each side of the genital foramen in the female.

R. compressus most resembles *R. darwini* in having three setae on the basifemur of the second leg, and relatively many (9–19) perigenital setae on the each side of the genital foramen in the female. However, *R. compressus* is easily distinguished from *R. darwini* by the square-shaped ocular plate, the lateral claw with a long delicate tooth, and the leg chaetotaxy: Telofemora I–IV, 6–6–4–4; genua I–IV, 6–6–3–4; tibiae I–IV, 6–6–5–5; bipectinate setae on genua I–IV, 1–0–0–1; tibiae I–IV, 2–1–1–2.

The specific epithet is derived from the somewhat compressed body.

Habitat—Intertidal and subtidal zones: Algae - *Enteromorpha intestinalis* on gravels, *Tichocarpus crinitus*, *Sargassum thunbergii*, *Fucus evanescens*, *Phyllospadix iwatensis* in tide pool, *Pelvetia wrightii* on tetrapod, *Agarum cribrosum* at subtidal zone. Mussels - *Mytilus edulis* on tetrapod and ledge. Barnacles - *Balanus cariosus* on tetrapod. Boulders. Coarse sandy sediment.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Bakkai, Teuri Island, Oshoro, Date, Muroran, Tomakomai, Shizunai, Nakanose, Aininkappu, Lake Akkeshi, Odaitô, Oshinkoshin.

***Rhombognathus dissociatus* Abé, 1990**

[Japanese name: Wakare-kaisoudani]

(Figs. 32–35)

Rhombognathus dissociatus Abé, 1990b, 523–529, figs. 5–8.

Specimens examined. One female (paratype), among *Sargassum* belt in crevice at low tide, intertidal, Oshoro (Kabuto Rock), Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 15. iv. 1986, H. Abé coll.; 1 male (paratype), on *Polysiphonia* at 0.3 m depth in tide pool, intertidal, Oshoro (Poromai), Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 6.iii.1989, H. Abé coll.; 1 tritonymph, *Mytilus edulis* in tide pool, intertidal, Muroran (Charatsunai), Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 15.xi.1989, H. Abé coll.; 1 protonymph, coarse sandy sediment at low water line, intertidal, Oshoro (Shirikoshi), Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 1.v.1989, H. Abé coll.

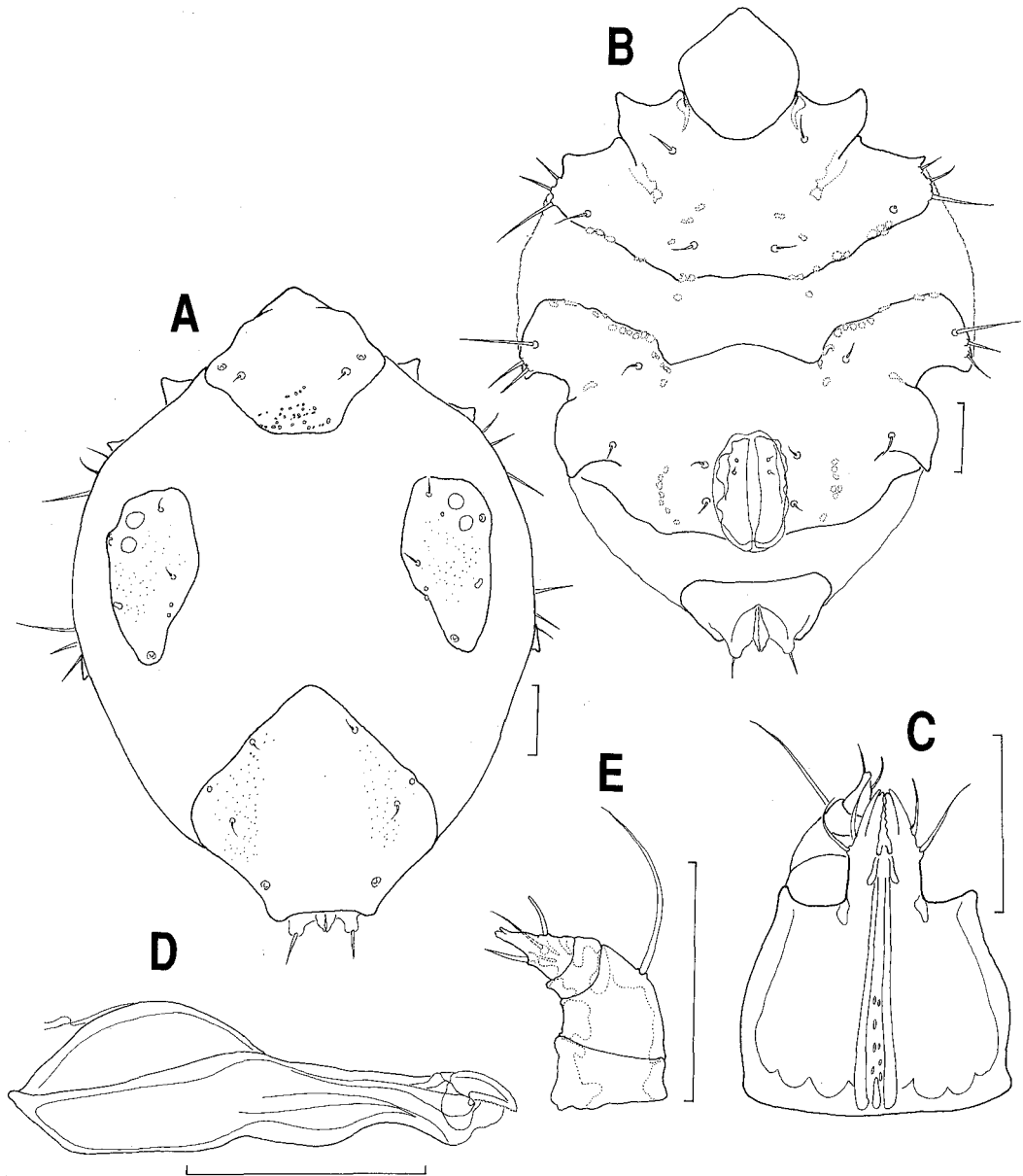


Fig. 32. *Rhombognathus dissociatus* Abé, 1990, female (paratype). A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr); C, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); D, chelicera (R); E, palp (R). Scale bars=50 μ m.

Female (paratype)

Dorsum (Fig. 32A): Dorsal plate ornamented with clear panels. AD strongly protruded anteriorly and truncated posteriorly, ornamented with triangular areolation. OC furnished with two large corneae and two large polygonal pores. PD furnished with two pairs of dorsal setae (ds-iv and ds-v).

Venter (Fig. 32B): Ventral plates three in number, completely separated. PE and genital

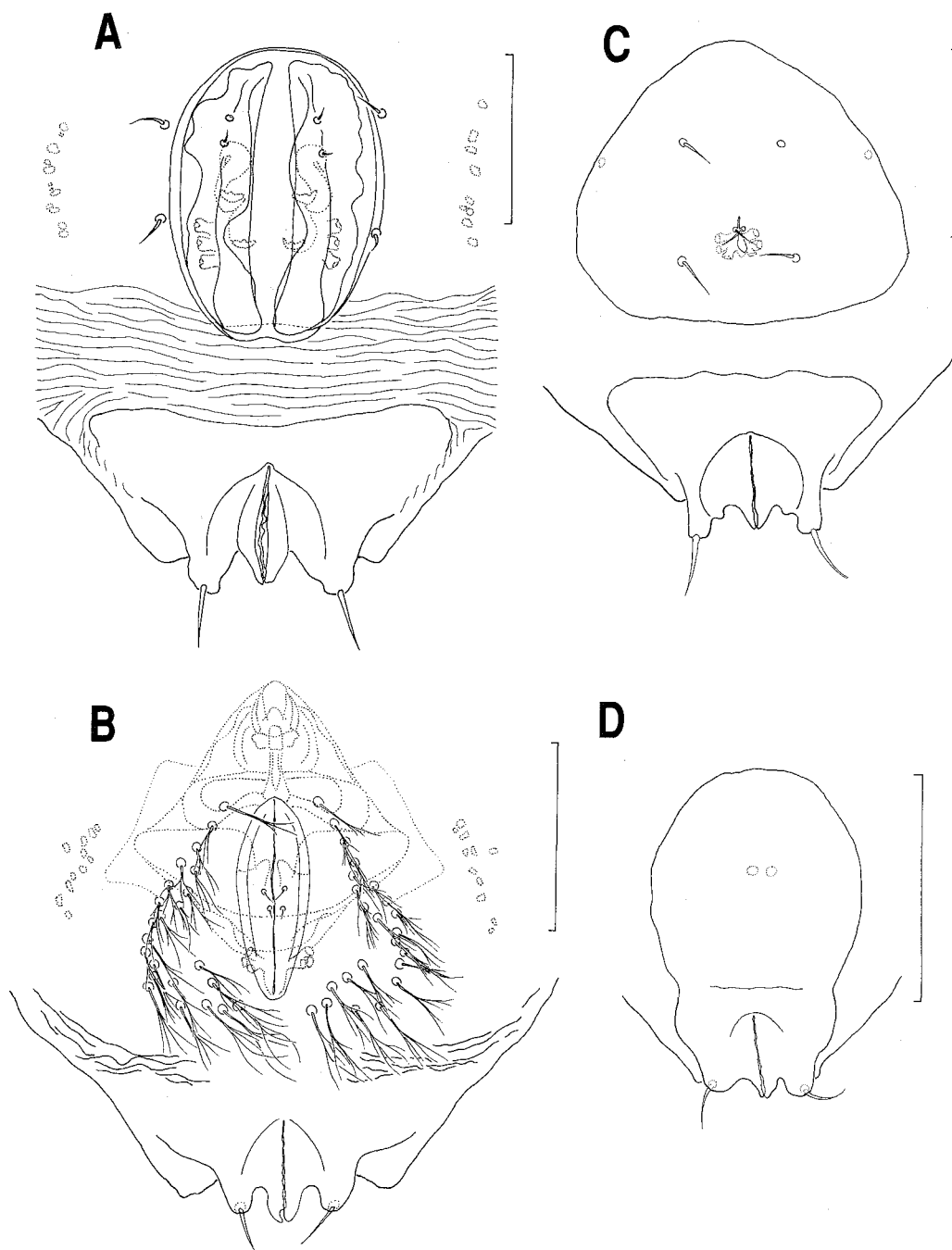


Fig. 33. *Rhombognathus dissociatus* Abé, 1990, genitoanal regions. A, female (paratype); B, male (paratype); C, tritonymph; D, protonymph. Scale bars=50 μ m.

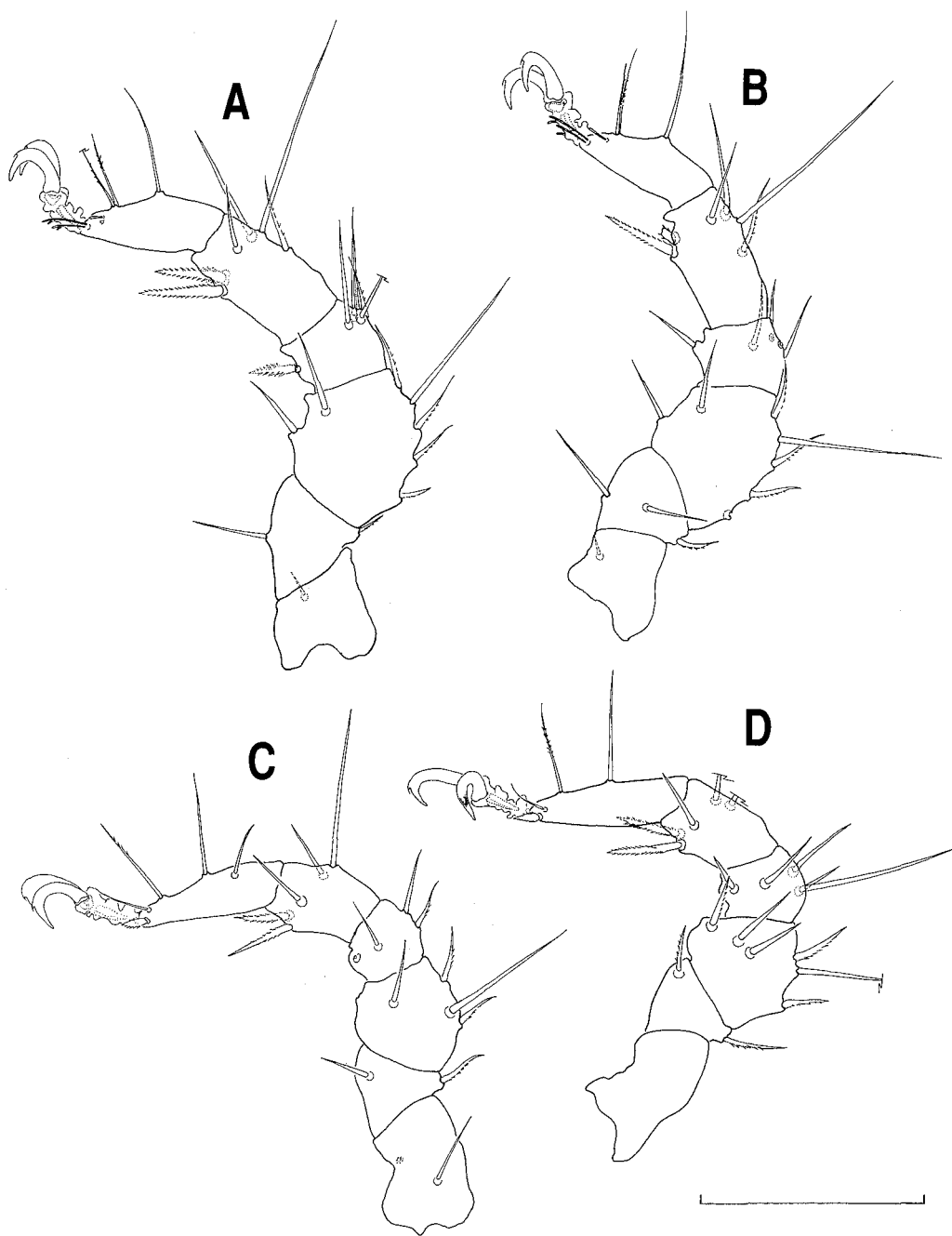


Fig. 34. *Rhombognathus dissociatus* Abé, 1990, female (paratype). A, leg I (L); B, leg II (L); C, leg III (R); D, leg IV (R). Scale bar = 100 μ m.

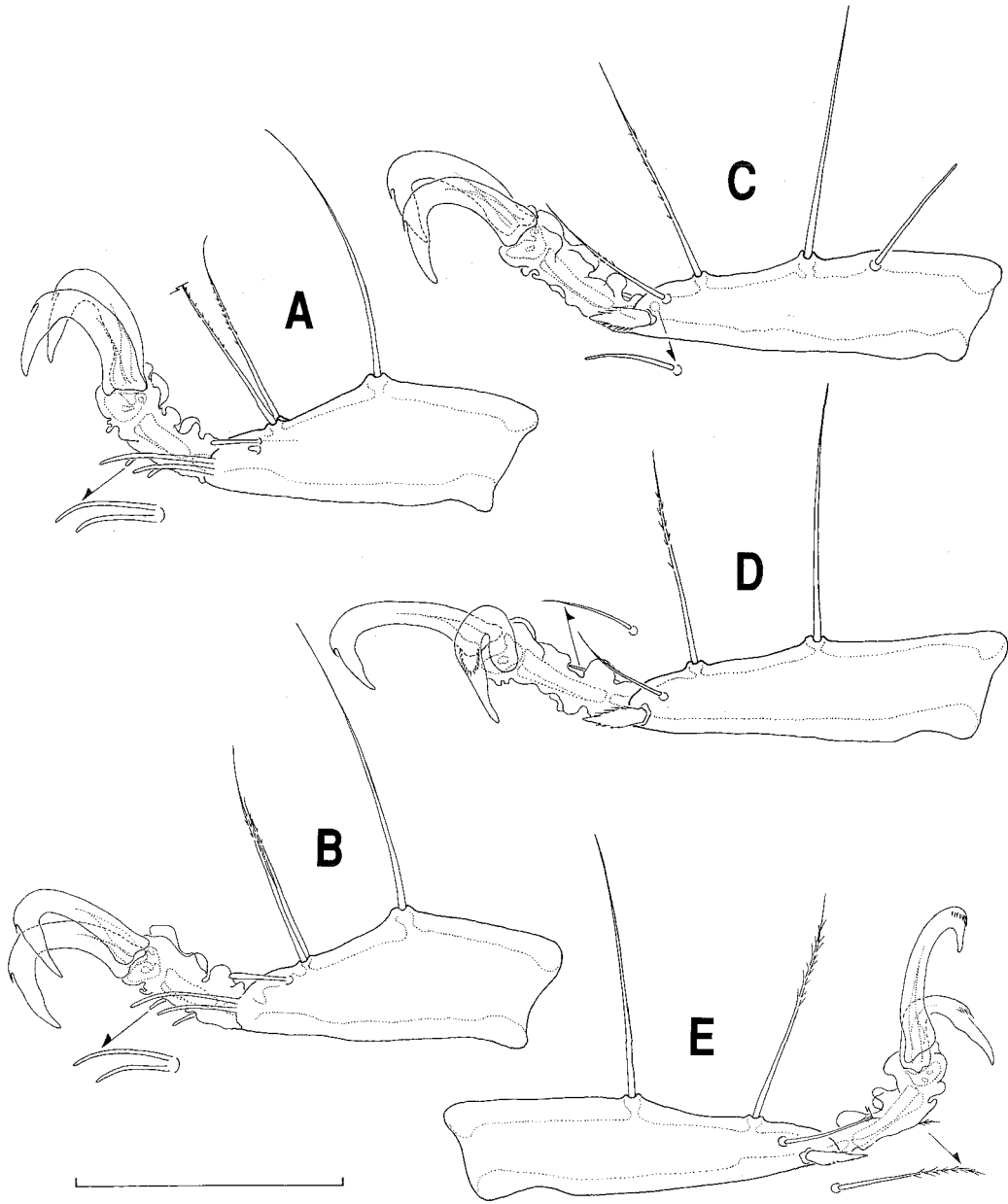


Fig. 35. *Rhombognathus dissociatus* Abé, 1990, female (paratype). A, tarsus I (L); B, tarsus II (L); C, tarsus III (R); D, tarsus IV (R). Male (paratype). E, tarsus IV (R). Scale bar = 50 μ m.

plate fused to form a single middle plate. AE and middle plate separated from each other by a strip of membranous cuticle. Middle plate concave anteriorly, convex posteriorly. Anal plate surrounding anal papilla, completely separated from genital region by a strip of striated membranous cuticle. Setae aes-ii-adj located near lateral margins, each consisting of three setae; pes-iii-adj placed on lateral margins of middle plate, each consisting of one thick seta.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 33A): Genital region occupying medial portion of middle plate. Genital sclerites band-like, extending posteriorly somewhat beyond posterior margin of middle plate. Genital acetabula three pairs. Spermatheca bilobed. Two pairs of filiform perigenital setae located near genital foramen. Subgenital setae two pairs, arranged 2-0. Adanal setae robust, placed distidorsally on anal papillae.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 32C): Rostral setae two pairs. Chelicera (Fig. 32D) with movable digit bearing 12-13 minute denticles along dorsal edge. Palp (Fig. 32E) typical form in the genus.

Legs (Figs. 34A-D) ornamented with fine porous panels which are clear only on telofemora. Lateral claw with tiny palmate accessory process. Solenidion (cf. Figs. 35A,B) long straight bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus (cf. Fig. 35A) papilliform with fine canaliculus at just ventrally to solenidion. Tarsus III (Fig. 35C) with four dorsal setae. Tarsus IV (Fig. 35D) with three dorsal setae (one long thick filiform seta on basal claw fossa, one plumose seta on distal claw fossa, one fine filiform seta on anterodorsal surface) and two parambulacral setae (one fine filiform proeuphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Male (paratype).

Body size somewhat smaller than that in the female.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 33B) furnished with branched perigenital setae. Subgenital setae two pairs, arranged 2-0. Genital acetabula three pairs. Spermatophorotype very massive. Anal plate partly fused to middle plate. Tarsus IV (Fig. 35E) furnished with three dorsal setae (one long thick filiform seta on basal claw fossa, one plumose seta on distal claw fossa, one plumose seta on anterodorsal surface of claw fossa) and two parambulacral setae (one long plumose proeuphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Tritonymph

Idiosoma 304 μm long, 208 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.23.

Dorsum: AD 100 μm long, 104 μm wide, strongly protruded anteriorly, truncated posteriorly. OC 88 μm long. PD 124 μm long, 106 μm wide, convex anteriorly. AD and PD separated by interval about a half of PD-length.

Venter: All ventral plates separated. AE 74 μm long, 184 μm wide, furnished with a number of subsurface pores medially as well as along posterior margin, with three aes-ii-adj on each lateral margin. PE 102 μm long, furnished with one pes-iii-adj and several subsurface pores along anteroventral margin. A pair of small subsurface pore placed on membranous cuticle medially.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 33C): Genital plate 76 μm long, 86 μm wide, subtriangular in shape, furnished with two pairs of perigenital and one pair of subgenital setae, bearing a tiny subsurface pore on each lateral margin. Primordial genital slit with three pairs of internal genital acetabula. Anal plate small, nearly truncated anteriorly.

Legs: Leg chaetotaxy of trochanters I-IV, 1-1-2-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-2-2; telofemora I-IV, 5-5-5-6; genua I-IV, 6-6-4-5; tibiae I-IV, 6-6-5-5. Distinct bipectinate setae on tibiae I-IV: 2-1-1-1.

Protonymph

Idiosoma 228 μm long, 148 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.23.

Dorsum: AD 68 μm long, 70 μm wide, protruded posteriorly. PD 92 μm long, 72 μm wide. OC 58 μm long.

Venter: AE 60 μm long, 126 μm wide, without aes-ii-adj. PE 70 μm long, without pes-iii-adj.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 33D): Genital plate 74 μm long, 54 μm wide, furnished with

primordial genital slit and one pair of internal genital acetabula. Genital seta absent.

Legs: Femur of leg IV without dividing into basifemur and telofemur. Leg chaetotaxy of trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora (femur of leg IV) I-IV, 2-2-1-2; telofemora I-III, 3-3-2; genua I-IV, 4-4-3-3; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. Distinct bipectinate setae on tibiae I-IV: 2-1-0-0.

Morphological variation and abnormality

The number of setae aes-ii-adj on each side of idiosoma in adults varies from three to four. The number of the perigenital setae on each side of the genital foramen varies from 14 to 25 in the male. The leg chaetotaxy of adult specimens varies as follows: Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-3-2-2; telofemora I-IV, (6,7)-(7,8)-(5,6)-(4,5,6,7); genua I-IV, (5,6)-(5,6)-(3,4)-(4,5,6); tibiae I-IV, 6-6-5-(5,6). One specimen has bipectinate setae of tibiae I-IV: 2-1-1-2.

Remarks

Rhombognathus dissociatus is unique in the following character states: 1) anterior dorsal plate strongly protruded anteriorly, 2) the venter of the female is covered with three ventral plates (right and left posterior epimeral plate and genital plate is fused into single plate in the female), 3) only two pairs of perigenital setae present in the female, 4) the leg chaetotaxy is distinctive in having trochanters I-IV with 1-1-2-0 setae.

On the notation of morphological variation and abnormality in the original description (Abé, 1990b, p. 528), the author noted "Trochanters I-IV, (6,7)-(7,8)-(5,6)-(4,5,6,7)." This description, however, is erroneous, and "Trochanters I-IV" should be corrected to "Telofemora I-IV".

Habitat—Intertidal zone: Algae - *Enteromorpha compressa*, *E. intestinalis* on gravels, *Sargassum thunbergii*, *S. confusum*, *S. fulvellum*, *S. sagamianum*, *Sargassum* sp., *Lomentaria hakodatensis*, *Cystoseira hakodatensis*, *Neorhodomela aculeata*, *Dictyopteris divaricata*, *Rhodymenia palmata*, *Coccophora longsdorffii*, *Zostera marina*, *Polysiphonia* sp., *Corallina* sp. on ledge and in tide pool. Polychaeta - *Pseudopotamilla ocellata* in tide pool. Mussels - *Mytilus edulis*, *Septifer virgatus* on ledge. Boulders. Coarse sandy sediment.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Teuri Island, Atsuta, Shukutsu, Oshoro, Tomari, Tateura, Kikonai, Muroran, Sôya.

Rhombognathus ezoensis Abé, 1990

[Japanese name: Ezo-kaisoudani]

(Figs. 36-39)

Rhombognathus ezoensis Abé, 1990b, 529-535, figs. 9-12.

Specimens examined. One female (paratype), on *Sargassum thunbergii* on exposed ledge at low tide, intertidal, Kikonai, Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 16.v.1987. H. Abé coll.; 1 male (paratype), on *Corallina* sp. at 0.1 m depth in tide pool, intertidal, Mitsuishi, Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 8.xii.1988, H. Abé coll.; 1 tritonymph and 1 deutonymph (paratypes), on *Sargassum* sp. on boulder at 0.2 m depth at high tide, intertidal, Oshoro (Shamodomari), Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 23.vi.1987, H. Abé coll.

Female (paratype)

Dorsum (Fig. 36A): AD weakly protruded posteriorly. OC furnished with two large corneae and two large polygonal pores. PD furnished with two pairs of setae (ds-iv and ds-v).

Venter (Fig. 36B) Epimeral and genital plates fused to form a single plate, and anal plate partly fused. Setae aes-ii-adj located on lateral margins, each consisting of two setae;

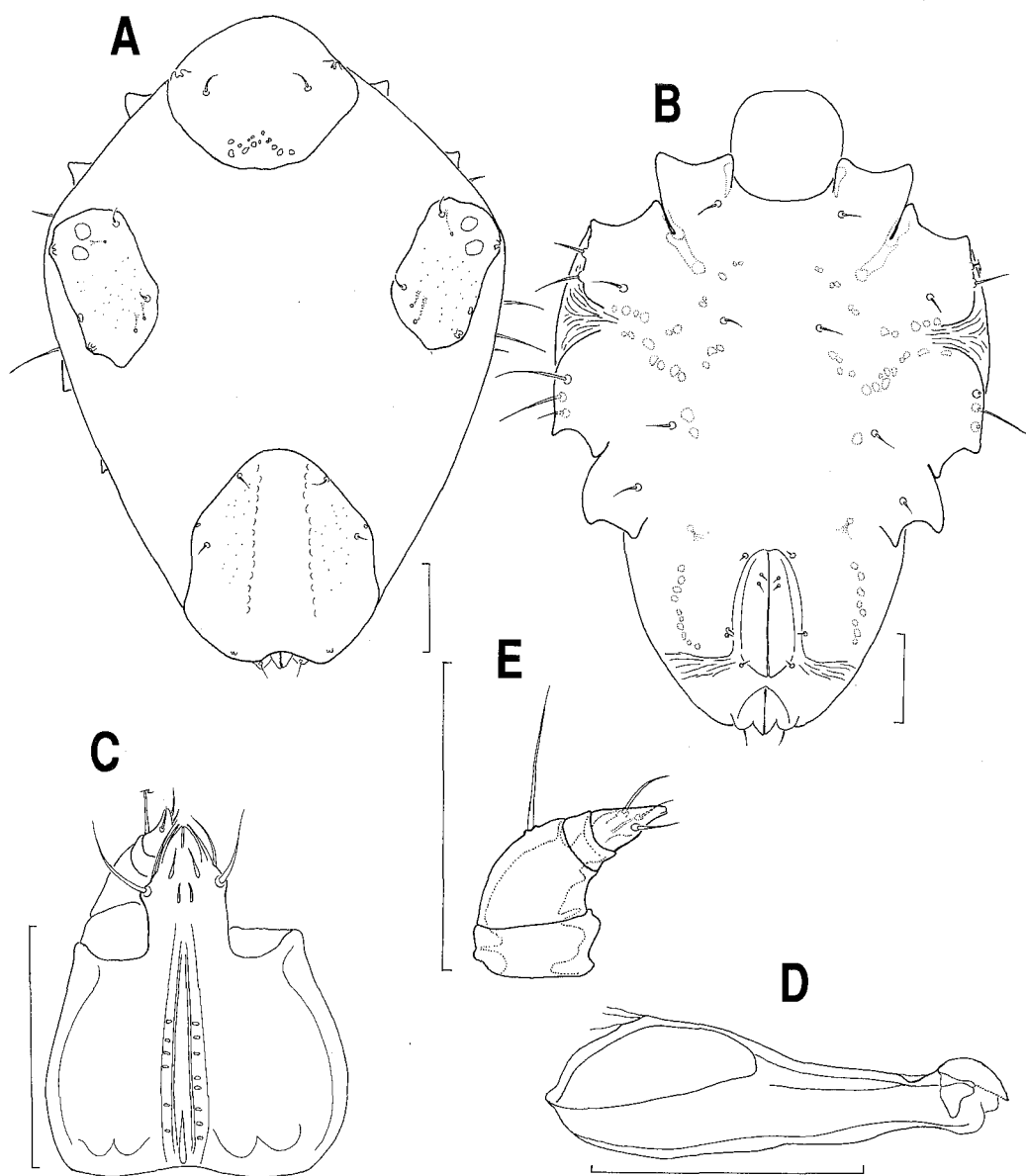


Fig. 36. *Rhombognathus ezoensis* Abé, 1990, female (paratype). A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr); C, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); D, chelicera (L); E, palp (R). Scale bars = 50 μ m.

pes-iii-adj placed dorsolaterally, each consisting of one seta. Genitoanal region (Fig. 37A) slightly incised laterally with membranous cuticle at posterior portion of genital foramen. Genital sclerites with three pairs of genital acetabula. Spermatheca bilobed. Four pairs of short filiform perigenital setae located in the vicinity of genital foramen. Subgenital setae filiform; two pairs arranged 2-0. Adanal setae placed on anal papilla dorsoproximally.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 36C): Rostral setae two pairs. Chelicera (Fig. 36D) with movable digit bearing 11-12 minute denticles along dorsal edge. Palp (Fig. 36E) typical form in the genus.

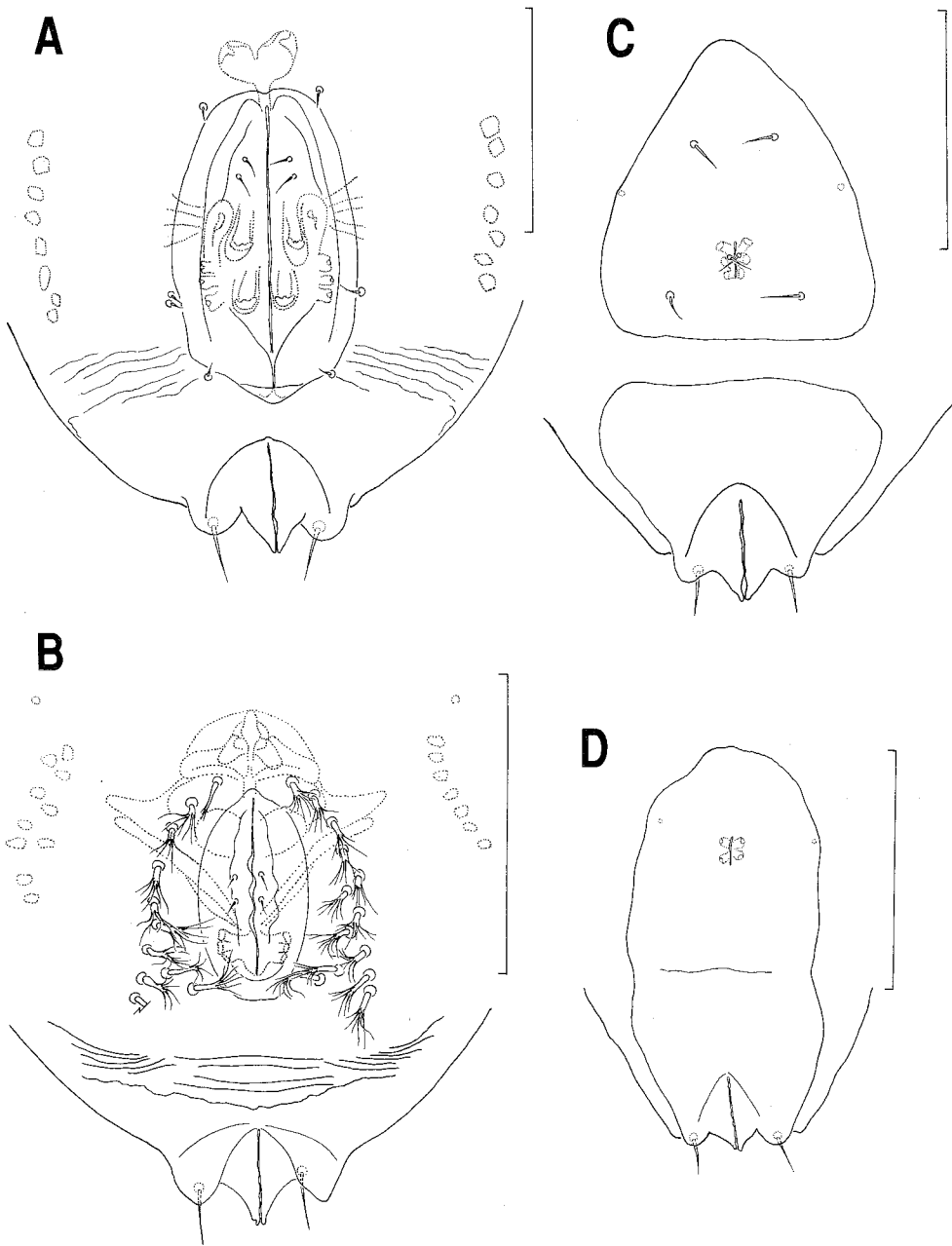


Fig. 37. *Rhombognathus ezoensis* sp. nov., genitoanal regions. A, female (paratype); B, male (paratype); C, tritonymph (paratype); D, deutonymph (paratype). Scale bars=50 μ m.

Legs (Figs. 38A-D): Lateral claw with palmate accessory process. Solenidion (cf. Figs. 39A,B) long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus (cf. Fig. 39A) papilliform with fine canaliculus at just ventrally to solenidion. Tarsus III (Fig. 39C) with four dorsal setae. Tarsus IV (Fig. 39D) with three dorsal setae (one long filiform seta on basal

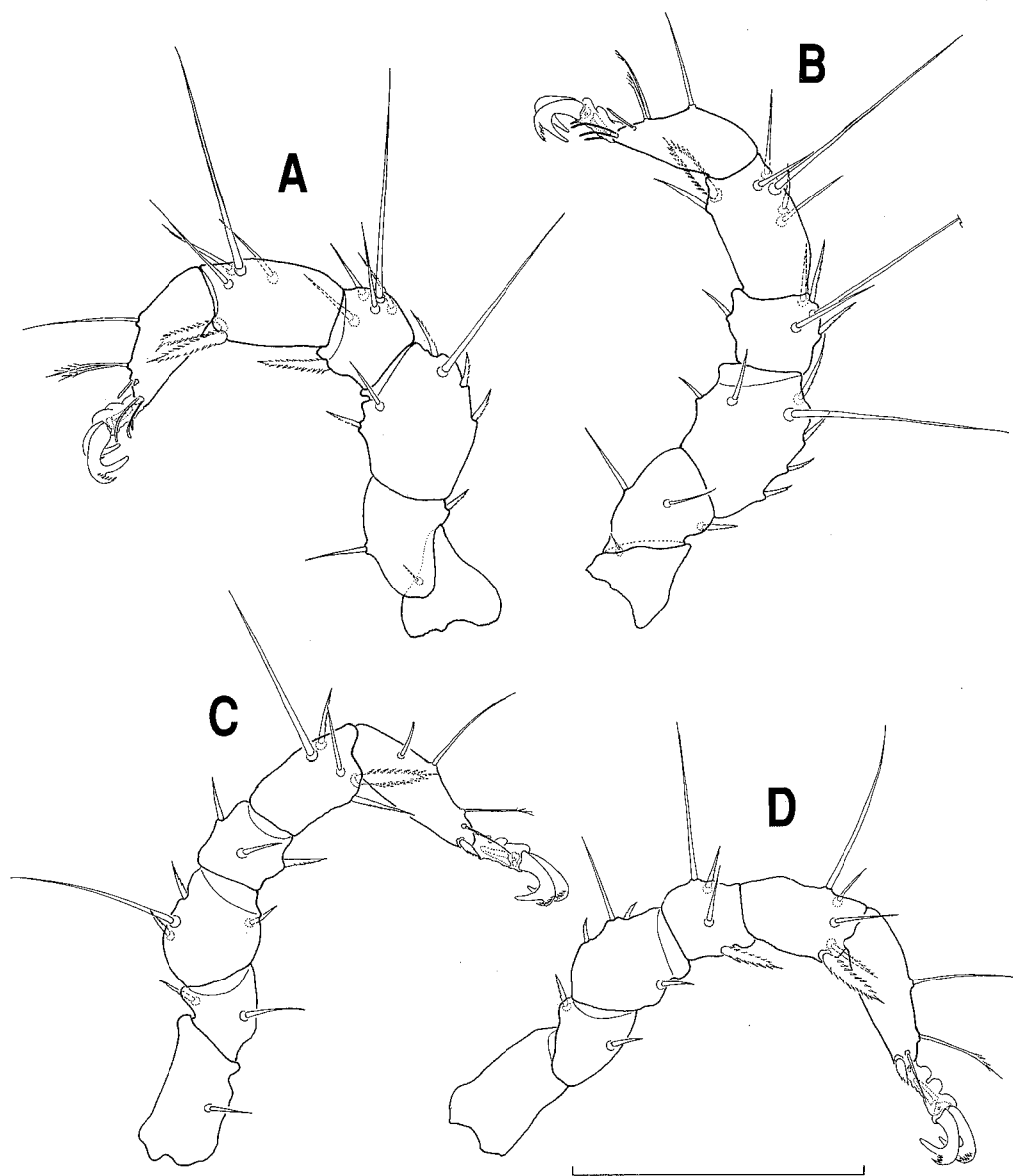


Fig. 38. *Rhombognathus ezoensis* Abé, 1990, female (paratype). A, leg I (L); B, leg II (L); C, leg III (R); D, leg IV (R). Scale bar = 100 μ m.

claw fossa, one plumose seta on distal claw fossa, one fine filiform seta on anterodorsal surface) and two parambulacral setae (one single euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Male (paratype)

Genitoanal region (Fig. 37B) furnished with branched perigenital setae. Subgenital setae two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Genital acetabula three pairs. Spermatophor-

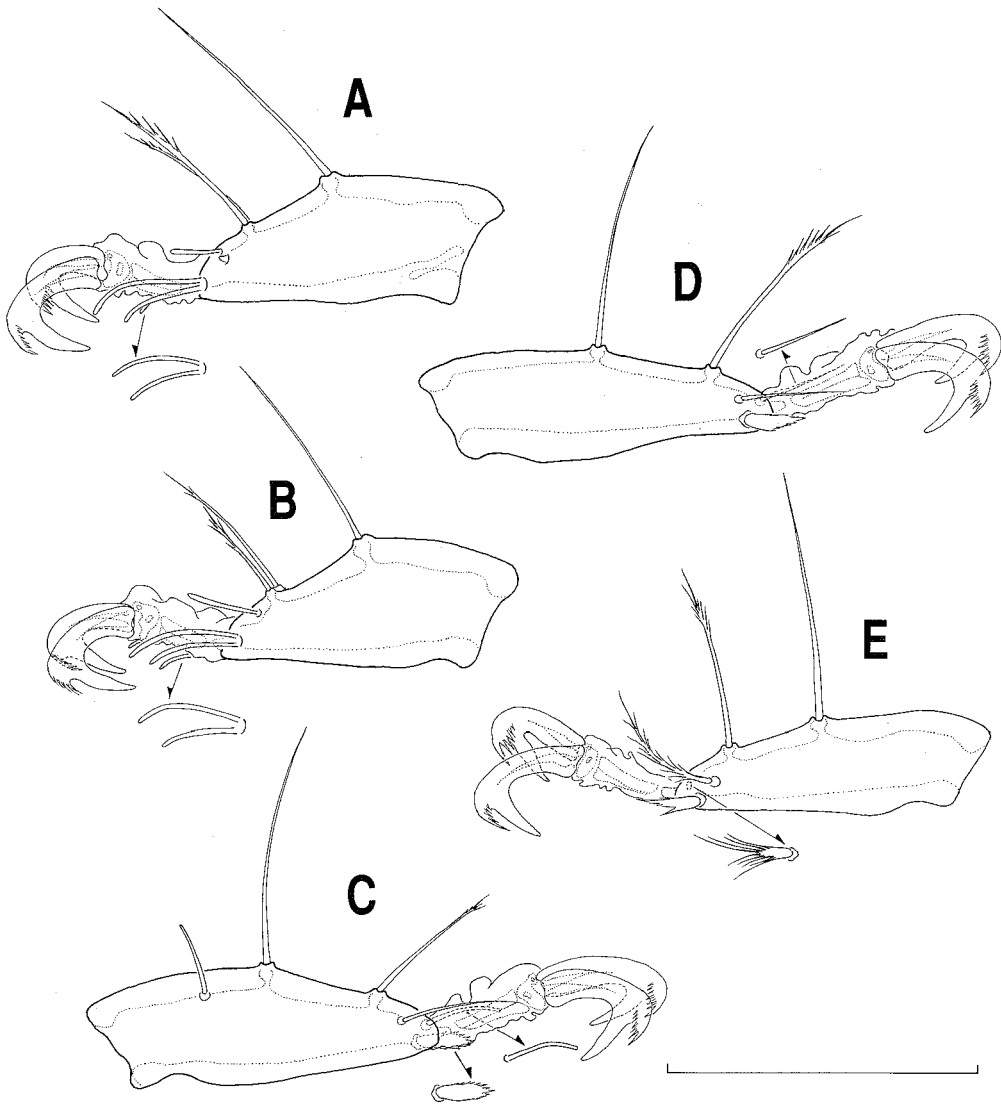


Fig. 39. *Rhombognathus ezoensis* Abé, 1990, female (paratype). A, tarsus I (L); B, tarsus II (L); C, tarsus III (L); D, tarsus IV (L). Male (paratype). E, tarsus IV (R). Scale bar = 50 μ m.

otype rhombic. Tarsus IV (Fig. 39E) furnished with three dorsal setae (one long thick filiform seta on basal claw fossa, one plumose seta on distal claw fossa, one delicate plumose seta on anterodorsal surface of claw fossa) and two parambulacral setae (one long plumose proeuphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Tritonymph (paratype)

Genital plate (Fig. 37C) bluntly protruded anteriorly, nearly truncated posteriorly, furnished with two pairs of perigenital and one pair of subgenital setae. Primordial genital slit with three pairs of genital acetabula. Anal plate small, nearly truncated anteriorly.

Deutonymph (paratype)

AE without aes-ii-adj. PE without pes-iii-adj. Genital plate (Fig. 37D) furnished with primordial genital slit and two pairs of internal genital acetabula. Genital seta absent.

Morphological variation and abnormality

The number of setae aes-ii-adj and pes-iii-adj on each side of idiosoma varies from two to three, and zero to one respectively. The number of the perigenital setae on each side of the genital foramen varies from 12 to 14 in the male, three to five in the female. The leg chaetotaxy varies among adult specimens as follows: Trochanters I-IV, (0,1)-(0,1)-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-(2,3)-2-(1,2); telofemora I-IV, (6,7)-7-(4,5,6)-(3,4,5); genua I-IV, (5,6)-(5,6)-3-4; tibiae I-IV, (6,7)-(6,7)-(5,6)-(5,6). Dorsoproximal seta on tarsus III is rarely lacking.

Remarks

Rhombognathus ezoensis is distinguishable from the other congeners by the following character states: 1) dorsal plates separated, 2) two pairs of setae on PD, 3) perigenital setae very short and four pairs in the female, 12-14 branched setae in the male, and 4) accessory process palmate with 6-8 teeth.

R. ezoensis closely resembles *R. reticulatus* Krantz, 1976. *R. ezoensis*, however, is distinctive from the latter by the number of perigenital setae in the female, and leg chaetotaxy.

In the original description (Abé, 1990b, p. 529), the author noted "(AD) without clear dorsal pore." This description, however, is due to an overlooking, and a dorsal pore presents near each lateral margin of AD. In the original description of tritonymph (Abé, 1990b, p. 534), the author noted "Subgenital seta absent." But this description was resulted from a misobservation, and one pair of faint subgenital setae is present near genital slit in the tritonymph. Furthermore, genital plate and anal plate of deutonymph are separated to each other by striated membranous cuticle in the original description (Abé, 1990b, p. 534, fig. 10G), but one paratype deutonymph specimen described in the present paper has fused single genitoanal plate. Unfortunately it is not clear in the present circumstances which condition of genitoanal region of deutonymph is said to be normal.

R. ezoensis is widely distributed around Hokkaido and is most abundant everywhere. Its adults are always observed throughout the year. Therefore, this species probably passes multiple generations in a year.

Habitat—Intertidal and subtidal zones: Algae - *Enteromorpha compressa*, *E. intestinalis* on gravels, *Sargassum fulvellum*, *S. thunbergii*, *S. confusum*, *Sargassum* sp., *Neorhodomela aculeata*, *Rhodymenia palmata*, *Coccophora langsdorfii*, *Corallina pilulifera*, *Corallina* sp., *Lomentaria hakodatensis*, *Dictyopteris divaricata*, *Desmarestia ligulata*, *Fucus evanescens*, *Cystoseira hakodatensis*, *Ectocarpus siliculosus*, *Ulva pertusa* in tide pool and on ledge, *Zostera marina*, *Phyllospadix iwatensis* in tide pool, *Agarum cribrosum* at subtidal zone. Mussels - *Mytilus edulis*, *Septifer virgatus* on tetrapod, ledge and flat. Barnacles - *Balanus cariosus* on tetrapod and ledge. Boulders. Coarse sandy sediment.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Wakkanai, Bakkai, Horodomari (Rebun Island), Kabukai (Rebun Island), Kabuka (Rebun Island), Oshidomari (Rishiri Island), Nozuka (Rishiri Island), Shosambetsu, Teuri Island, Yagishiri Island, Rumoi, Mashike, Hamamasu, Atsuta, Shukutsu, Oshoro, Tomari, Tateiwa, Hutoro, Aonae (Okushiri Island), Tateura, Kaminokuni, Shirakami, Kikonai, Usujiri, Usu, Date, Muroran, Tomakomai, Shizunai, Mitsuishi, Samani, Erimo, Hiroo, Kushiro, Nakanose, Daikoku Island, Lake Akkeshi, Tōbai, Rausu, Aidomari, Utoro, Oshinkoshin, Masuura, Tokoro, Sakaeura, Kimuanepu, Barou, Monbetsu, Esashi, Ōmisaki, Sōya.

Rhombognathus incertus sp. nov.

[Japanese name : Mayoi-kaisoudani]
(Figs. 40-42)

Type series. Holotype: Female, on *Gymnogongrus flabelliformis* at a depth of 0.1 m in tide pool, intertidal, Oshoro (Nekodomari), Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 30.viii.1988, H. Abé coll.

Female (holotype)

Idiosoma 322 μm long, 196 μm wide. Color in life dark green.

Dorsum (Fig. 40A): Dorsal plate ornamented with reticulated panels (Fig. 40C), and partly with fine canaliculi. AD and PD separated by interval of approximately AD-length. AD 84 μm long, 84 μm wide, rounded posteriorly, ornamented with weak areolation posteriorly, with a dorsal pore near each lateral margin. OC 84 μm long, extending anteriorly to level of the posterior margin of AD, reaching posteriorly at level of insertion of leg III, furnished with two small corneae and two polygonal pores, bearing one tiny pore-like structure on lateral margin, one maze-like subsurface pore medially to anterior cornea, and two tiny subsurface pores near each posteromedial margin. Areolation indistinct. PD 148 μm long, 102 μm wide, furnished with a small subsurface pore on anterolateral margin, and with dorsal pore on posterior margin on each side. Costae weak.

Chaetotaxy of dorsal region: Dorsal setae short. Setae ds-i on AD, somewhat longer than the others; ds-ii and ds-iii each on OC; ds-iv on PD, near anterolateral margin. Setae ds-v absent.

Venter (Fig. 40B): Epimeral and genitoanal plates fused to form a single plate. Ventral plates are entirely reticulated with weak porous panels. Epimeral region furnished with several subsurface pores medially, and with epimeral pore between insertions of leg I and leg II on each side. Lateral incisions not clear.

Chaetotaxy of epimeral region: Setae aes-i located posteriorly to camerostome; aes-ii-lat placed near lateral margin; aes-ii-v placed most medially; aes-ii-adj located on dorsolateral margins, each consisting of one seta; pes-iii-lat placed dorsally on posterior epimeral region; pes-iii-v near lateral margins; pes-iv-a placed medially at level of slightly anterior to insertion of leg III; pes-iv-p located at level anterior to insertion of leg IV; pes-iii-adj located dorsolaterally, each consisting of one seta.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 40D): Genitoanal region without distinct lateral incisions. Genital foramen 74 μm long, 58 μm wide, occupying from level slightly posterior to insertion of leg IV to level anterior to anal foramen. Genital sclerites band-like, with three pairs of internal genital acetabula. Spermatheca indistinct.

Chaetotaxy of genitoanal region: Five pairs of filiform perigenital setae located at each side of genital foramen as arranged in Fig. 40D. Subgenital setae filiform; two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Adanal setae very fine, placed dorsally on anal papilla.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 41A): 78 μm long, 62 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.24. Base, length/width 0.83. Rostrum 28 μm long, nearly lanceolate, not reaching to level of distal end of palp. Rostral setae two pairs as follows: Proximal pair long and robust, at swollen point; distal pair short, at just anterior to proximal pair. Chelicera (Fig. 41B) with basal segment 76 μm long, and movable digit 16 μm long, bearing 11-13 denticles along dorsal edge. Fixed digit extending distally to mid level of movable digit. Palp (Fig. 41C) 48 μm long; P-1 short and cylindrical; P-2 longest, with a long filiform seta distidorsally; P-3 short and cylindrical; P-4 conical, with two filiform and one blade-like setae intermediately.

Legs (Figs. 42A-D): Length of legs I, II, III, IV=210, 214, 224, 222 μm respectively. Ornamentation indistinct. Lateral claw with palmate accessory process, bearing seven to nine delicate teeth.

Leg chaetotaxy as follows: Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-2-2; telofemora I-IV, 6-7-4-4; genua I-IV, 5-5-3-3; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. As for large

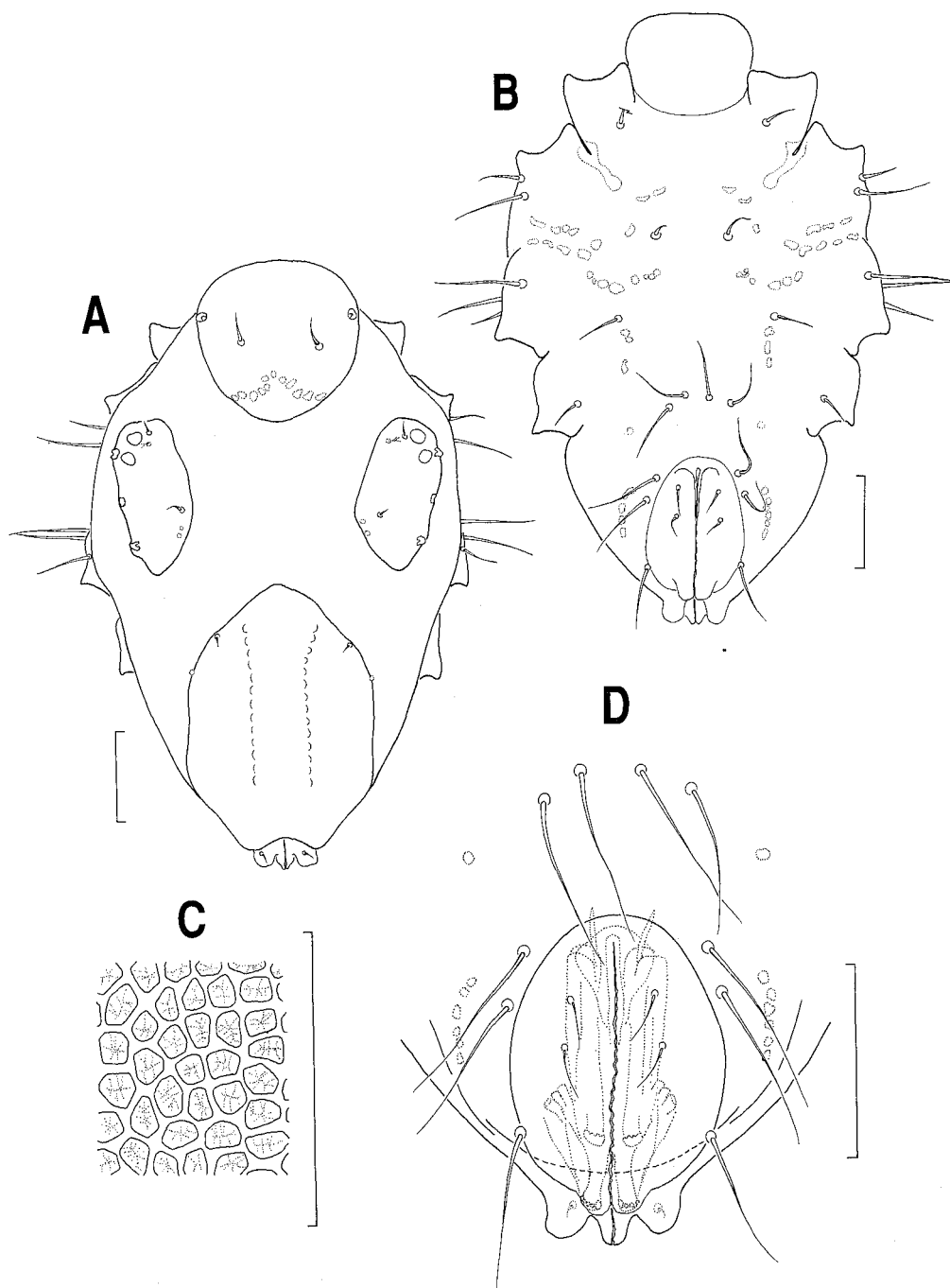


Fig. 40. *Rhombognathus incertus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr); C, panels on PD; D, genitoanal region. Scale bars=50 μ m.

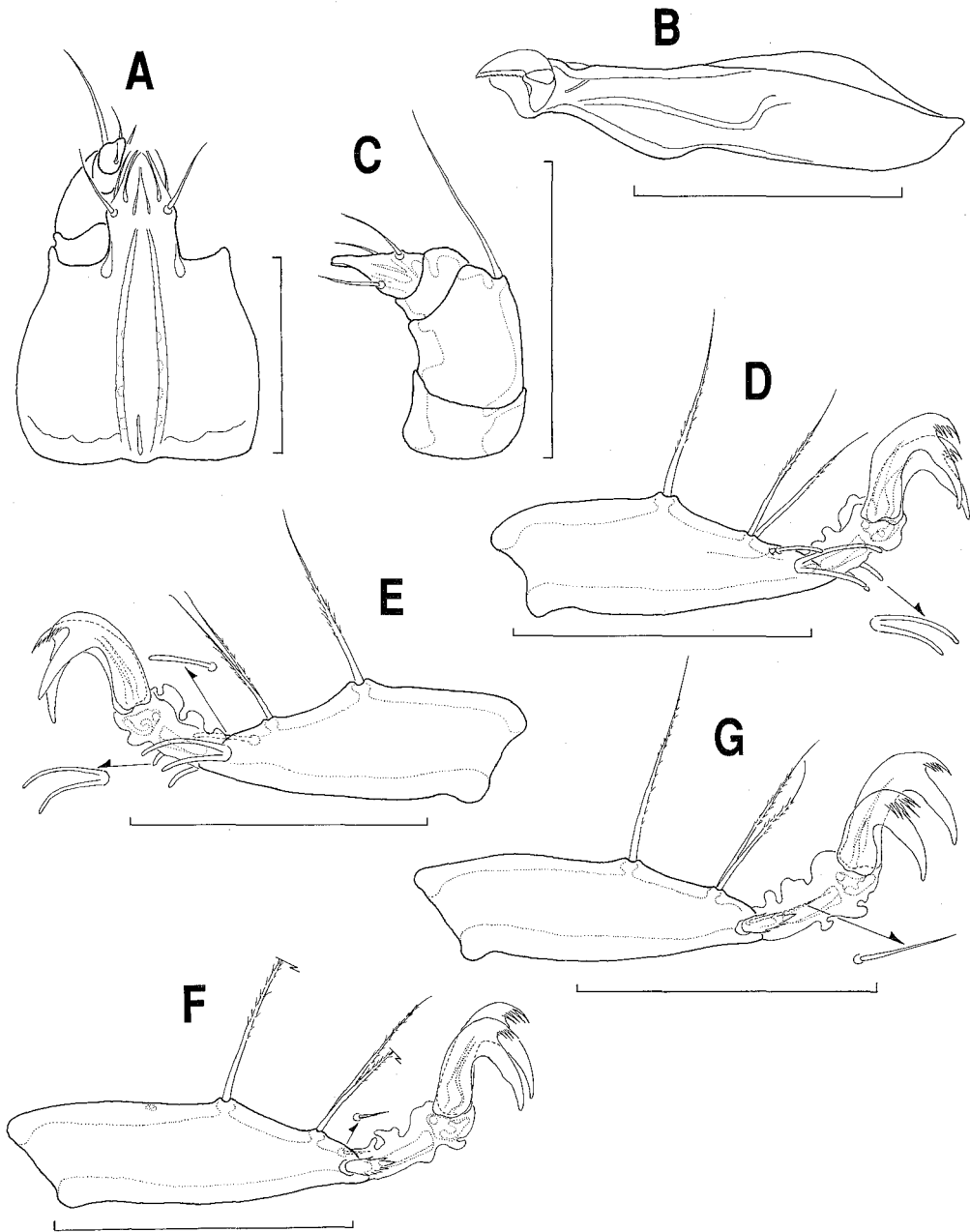


Fig. 41. *Rhombognathus incertus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); B, chelicera (L); C, palp (L); D, tarsus I (R); E, tarsus II (R); F, tarsus III (L); G, tarsus IV (L). Scale bars=50 μ m.

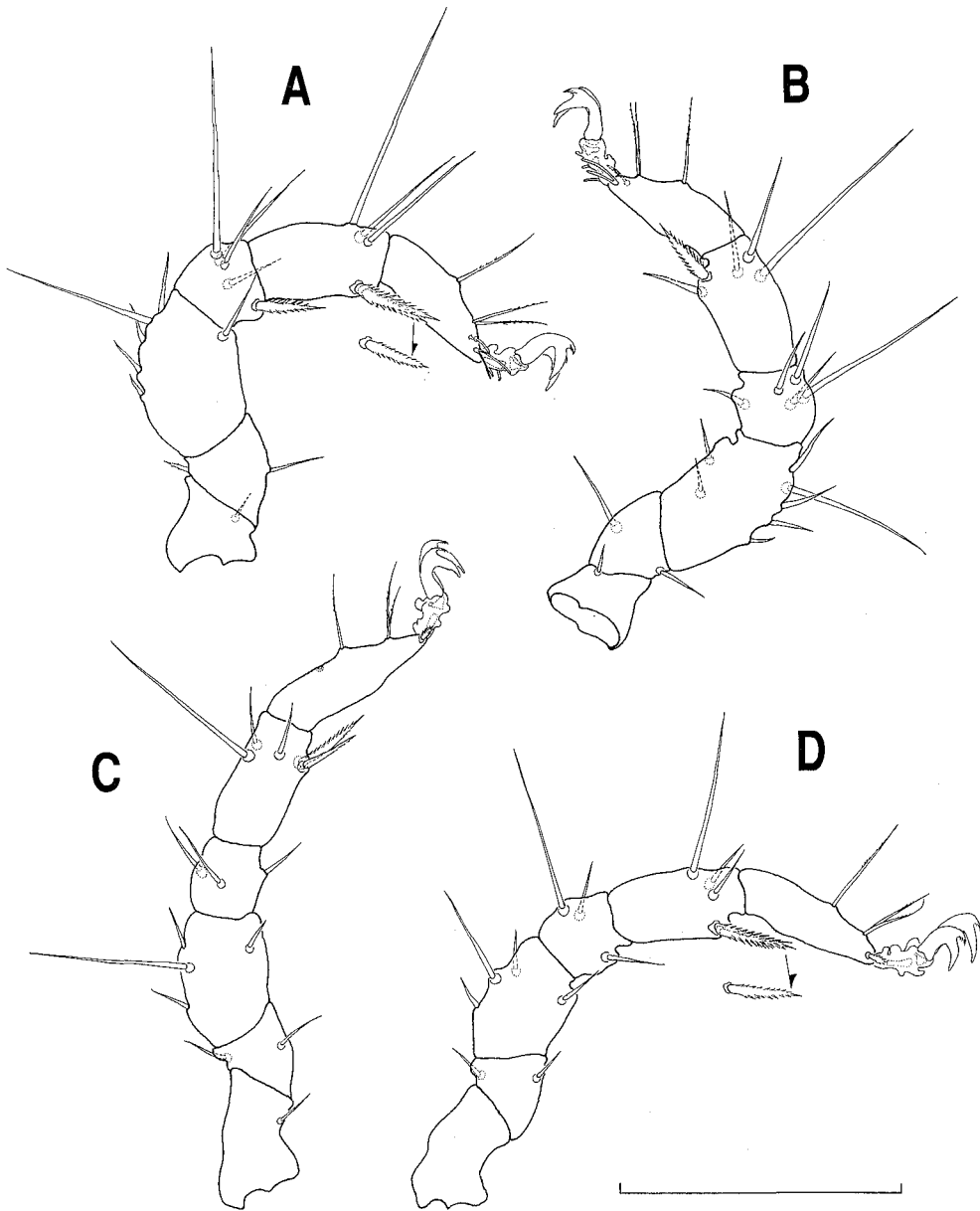


Fig. 42. *Rhombognathus incertus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, leg I (R); B, leg II (R); C, leg III (L); D, leg IV (L). Scale bar = 100 μ m.

bipectinate setae: Genua I-IV, 1-0-0-0; tibiae I-IV, 2-1-1-2 (one seta is less pectinated). Tarsus I (Fig. 41D) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, one famulus, and four parambulacral setae (paired doublet euphathidia). Solenidion long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus papilliform with fine canaliculus at just proximally to solenidion. Tarsus II (Fig. 41E) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, and four parambulacral setae. Solenidion long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Tarsus III (Fig. 41F) with

four dorsal setae and two parambulacral setae (one single euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface). Tarsus IV (Fig. 41G) with three dorsal setae (one long faintly plumose seta on basal claw fossa, two weakly plumose seta on distal claw fossa) and two parambulacral setae (one fine filiform euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Remarks

Rhombognathus incertus is placed in a group characterized by having five perigenital setae in the female. *R. incertus* is distinguishable from the sympatric *R. sinensis* Bartsch, 1990 and other closely related species by having clear reticulations on dorsal plates, AD with round posterior margin, and genua I-IV with 1-0-0-0 bipectinate seta. The clearly pectinated bipectinate seta on the genu is shared with *R. cetratus* Bartsch, 1974b, *R. felcis* Newell, 1984, *R. longiscutatus* Bartsch, 1977, and *R. novaezealandicus* Bartsch, 1985 (unclear, probably 1-0-0-0). However, *R. incertus* differs from these congeners by having the palmate type accessory process and the telofemora I-IV with 6-7-4-4 setae.

The specific epithet is derived from the incertitude of discriminative characters.

Habitat—Intertidal zone: Algae - *Gymnogongrus flabelliformis* in tide pool.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Oshoro.

***Rhombognathus leurodactylus* Krantz, 1976**

[Japanese name: Subeyubi-kaisoudani]

(Figs. 43-45)

Rhombognathus leurodactylus Krantz, 1976, 243-246, figs. 1-8.

Specimens examined. One female, on *Enteromorpha intestinalis* on gravels at a depth of 0.1 m, intertidal, Shizunai, Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 22.v.1989, H. Abé coll.; 4 females and 3 males, coarse sand on tidal line, intertidal, Oshoro (Shirikoshi), Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 22.iii.1989, H. Abé coll.; 1 male, locality same as above, 6.iii.1989, H. Abé coll.; 1 male, locality same as above, 13.iv.1989, H. Abé coll.

Female

Idiosoma 328 μ m long, 180 μ m wide. Color in life dark green.

Dorsum (Fig. 43A): Dorsal plates weakly sclerotized. AD protruded posteriorly, ornamented with weak areolation posteriorly. OC furnished with two corneae and two polygonal pores. Dorsal setae short. PD furnished with two pairs of setae (ds-iv and ds-v) near anterolateral margin.

Venter (Fig. 43B): Epimeral and genital plates fused to form a single plate. Anal plate isolated at distal end of venter. Setae aes-ii-adj located on lateral margins, each consisting of two or three setae; pes-iii-adj placed dorsolaterally, each consisting of one seta. Genital region (Fig. 43C) surrounded posteriorly with membranous cuticle. Genital foramen completely separated from anal foramen by wide membranous area. Genital sclerites band-like, with three pairs of genital acetabula. Spermatheca bilobed. Three pairs of filiform perigenital setae located at genitoanal region. Subgenital setae filiform; two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Adanal setae placed on anal papilla dorsally.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 44A): Rostral setae two pairs. Chelicera (Fig. 44B) with movable digit bearing about 12 minute denticles along dorsal edge. Palp (Fig. 44C) typical form in the genus.

Legs (Figs. 45A-D): Lateral claw smooth, without accessory process. Solenidion (cf. Figs. 44D,E) long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus (cf. Fig. 44D) papilliform with fine canaliculus at just ventrally to solenidion. Tarsus III (Fig. 44F) with four dorsal setae. Tarsus IV (Fig. 44G) with three dorsal setae (one long filiform seta on basal

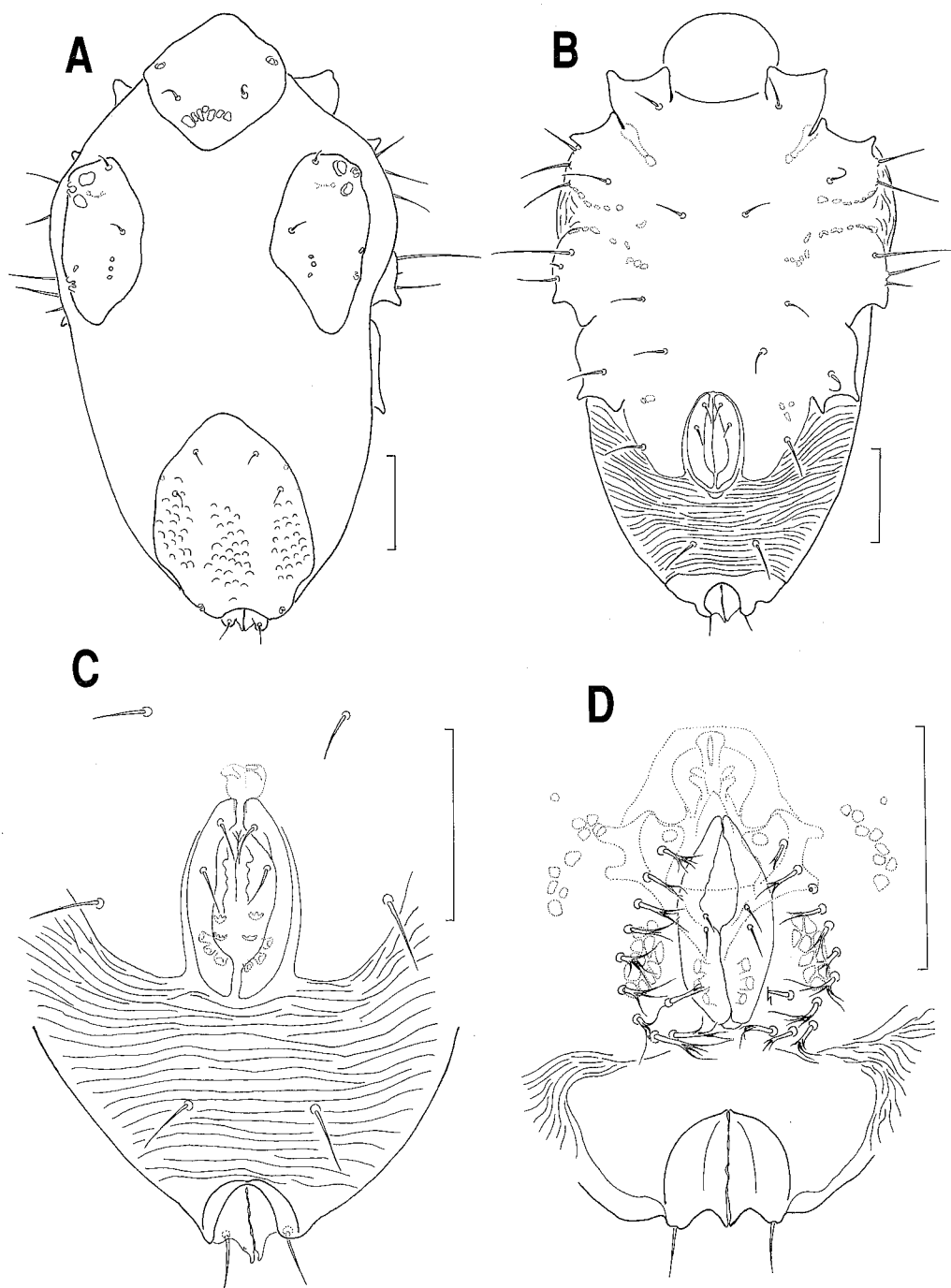


Fig. 43. *Rhombognathus leurodactylus* Krantz, 1976, female. A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr); C, genitoanal region. Male. D, genitoanal region. Scale bars=50 μ m.

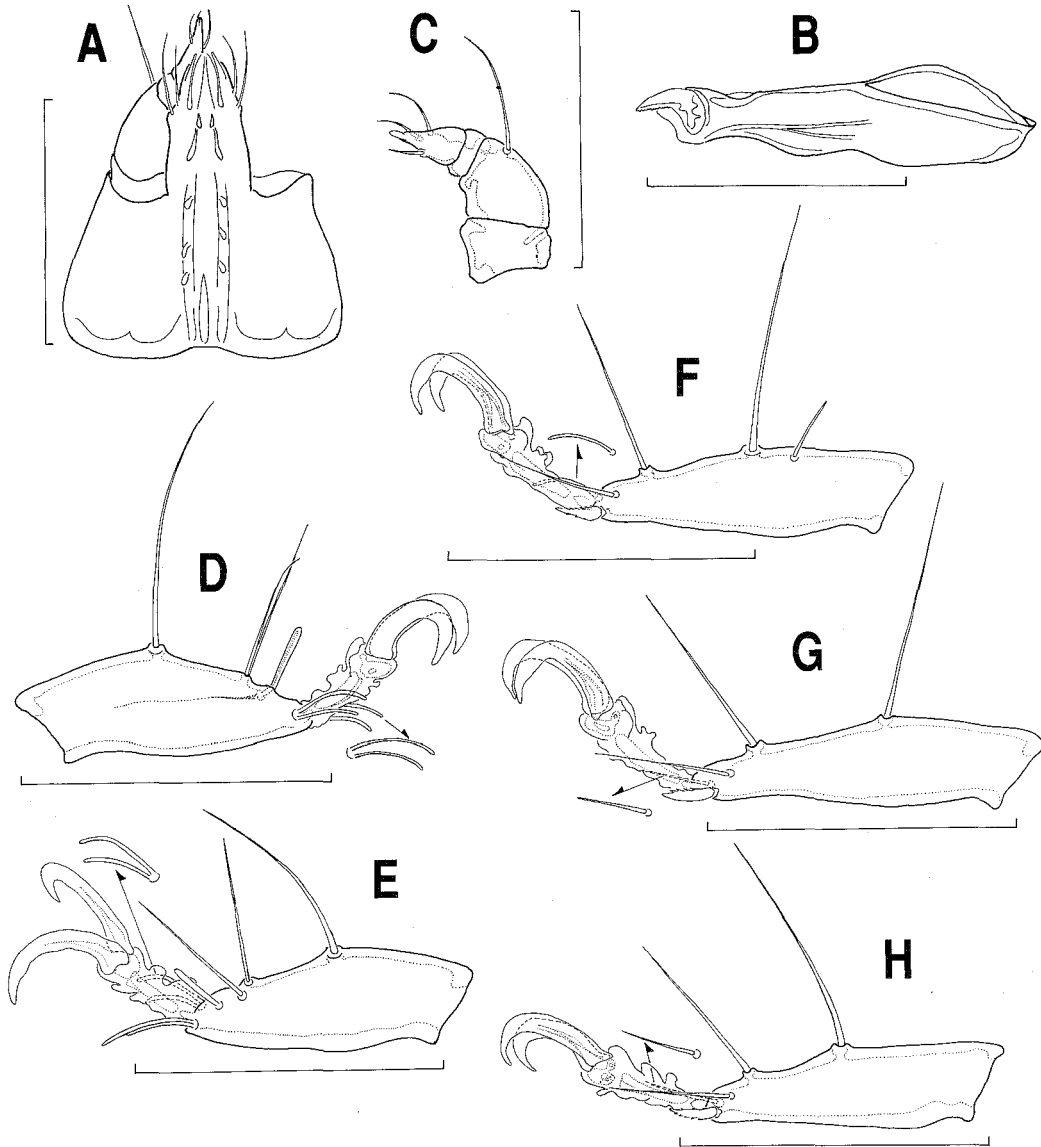


Fig. 44. *Rhombognathus leurodactylus* Krantz, 1976, female. A, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); B, chelicera (R); C, palp (L); D, tarsus I (L); E, tarsus II (L); F, tarsus III (R); G, tarsus IV (R). Male. H, tarsus IV (R). Scale bars = 50 μ m.

claw fossa, one filiform seta on distal claw fossa, one fine filiform seta on anterodorsal surface) and two parambulacral setae (one filiform eupathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeupathidium on anterior surface).

Male

Genitoanal region (Fig. 43D) incised laterally with membranous cuticle, bearing branched perigenital setae. Subgenital setae two pairs, arranged 2-0. Genital acetabula three pairs.

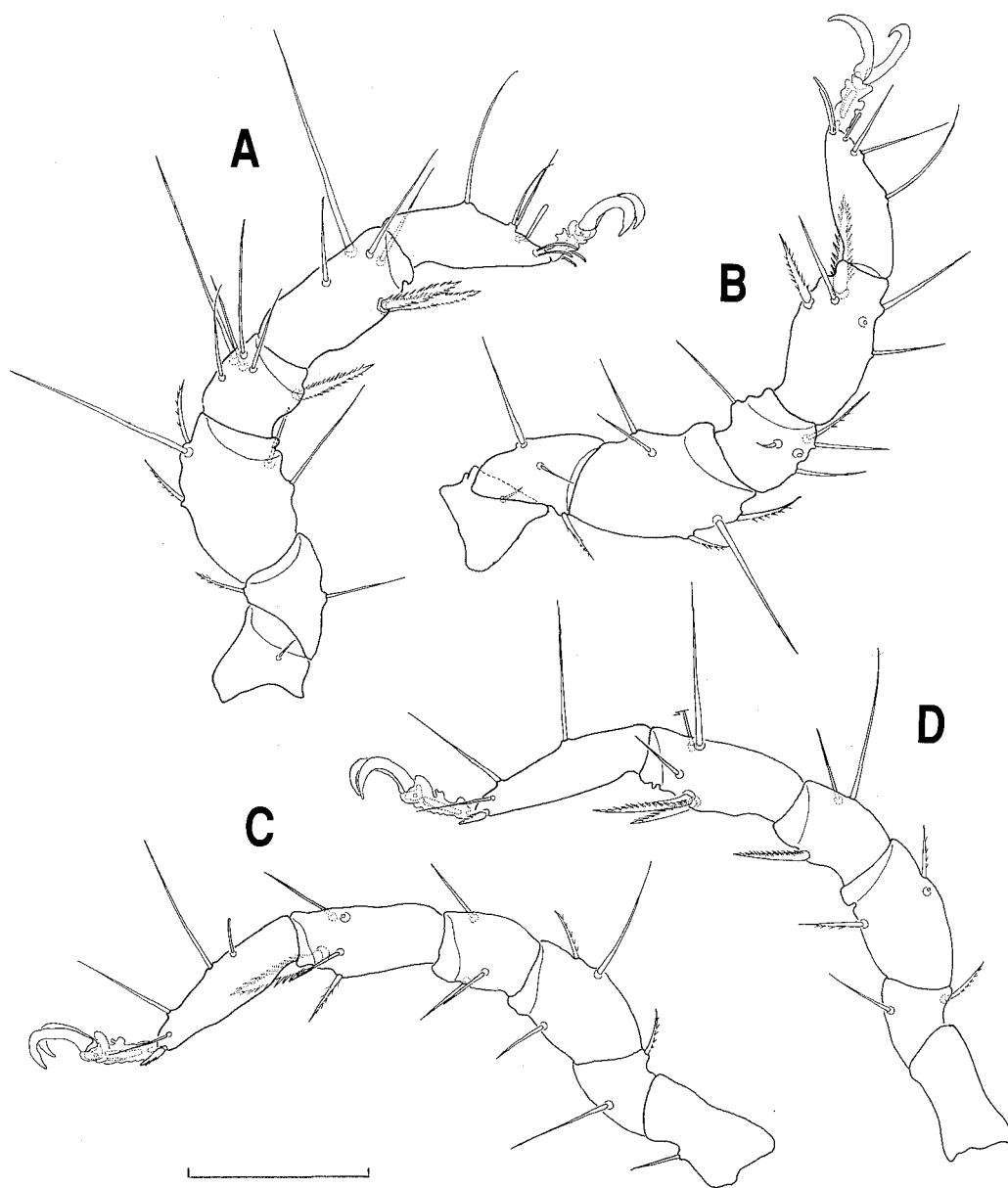


Fig. 45. *Rhombognathus leurodactylus* Krantz, 1976, female. A, leg I (L); B, leg II (L); C, leg III (R); D, leg IV (R). Scale bar = 100 μ m.

Spermatophorotype rhombic. Tarsus IV (Fig. 44H) similar to that in the female.

Morphological variation and abnormality

The size range of the idiosoma, gnathosoma, and legs I-IV as follows.

Female (n=5). Idiosoma-length: 316-348 μ m, -width: 152-200 μ m; gnathosoma-length: 62-76 μ m, -width: 56-68 μ m; leg-length: Leg I, 186-200 μ m; leg II, 180-196 μ m; leg III, 176-204 μ m; leg IV, 182-214 μ m.

Male (n=5). Idiosoma-length: 288–316 μm , -width: 160–180 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 66–70 μm , -width: 56–62 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 170–192 μm ; leg II, 170–194 μm ; leg III, 168–196 μm ; leg IV, 186–198 μm .

The leg chaetotaxy varies among adult specimens (n=10) as follows: Trochanters I–IV, 1–1–1–(0,1); basifemora I–IV, 2–3–2–(1,2); telofemora I–IV, (4,5)–(4,5)–3–(3,4); genua I–IV, 6–(5,6)–3–3; tibiae I–IV, 6–6–5–5. One of two bipectinate setae of tibia IV is less pectinated in some specimens.

The number of setae aes-ii-adj varies from one to three on each side of epimeral region. The number of the perigenital setae on each side of the genital foramen varies from 10 to 17 in the male. One specimen has three dorsal setae on right OC.

Remarks

Rhombognathus leurodactylus is originally described by Krantz (1976) from the sandy sediment of Schooner Creek, North Pacific coast of the United States. The adult specimens from Hokkaido, northern Japan, accord well with the original description except for the smaller body size (corresponding condition of North American specimens in parentheses): 316–348 (359–411) μm in the female, 288–316 (333–364) μm in the male.

In almost all significant taxonomic characters of *R. leurodactylus* showed nearly identical character states with *R. subtilis* Bartsch, 1975. But *R. leurodactylus* is discernible from *R. subtilis* by the conformation of dorsal plates in adults, and branched subgenital setae in the tritonymph.

R. leurodactylus also resembles *R. lionyx* Trouessart, 1899. The present species, however, differs from the latter by having completely smooth lateral claws, two large bipectinate setae on tibia IV, and only one seta on trochanter III rather than two as in *R. lionyx*.

R. leurodactylus has been considered to be a psammophilous species (Krantz, 1976), because it has not been known from habitats other than sand. In the present study, however, this species was discovered from several kinds of algae and mussels as well as from sandy sediment.

Habitat—Intertidal zone: Algae - *Enteromorpha intestinalis* on gravels, *Corallina pilulifera*, *Fucus evanescens*, *Coccophora langsdorfii* in tide pool. Mussels - *Mytilus edulis* on flat. Coarse sandy sediment.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Oshoro, Tomari, Shizunai, Erimo, Kushiro, Aininkappu, Utoro, Sôya.

Rhombognathus medialis sp. nov.

[Japanese name: Uchige-kaisoudani]

(Figs. 46–48)

Type series. Holotype: Female, coarse sand on tidal line, intertidal, Daikoku Isl., Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 3.vi.1988, H. Abé coll. Allotype: Male, data same as the holotype. Paratypes: 2 females and 1 male, data same as the holotype; 3 females, coarse sand at a depth of 0.3 m, intertidal, Oshoro (Ponshoro), Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 13.iv.1989, H. Abé coll.

Female (holotype)

Idiosoma 360 μm long, 232 μm wide. Color in life dark green.

Dorsum (Fig. 46A): Dorsal plates ornamented with clear panels, and partly with fine canaliculi. AD and PD separated by interval approximately two times as long as AD-length. AD 78 μm long, 86 μm wide, protruded posteriorly, ornamented with weak areolation posteriorly and a dorsal pore near each lateral margin. OC 98 μm long, extending anteriorly to level slightly posterior to posterior margin of AD, reaching posteriorly at level posterior to

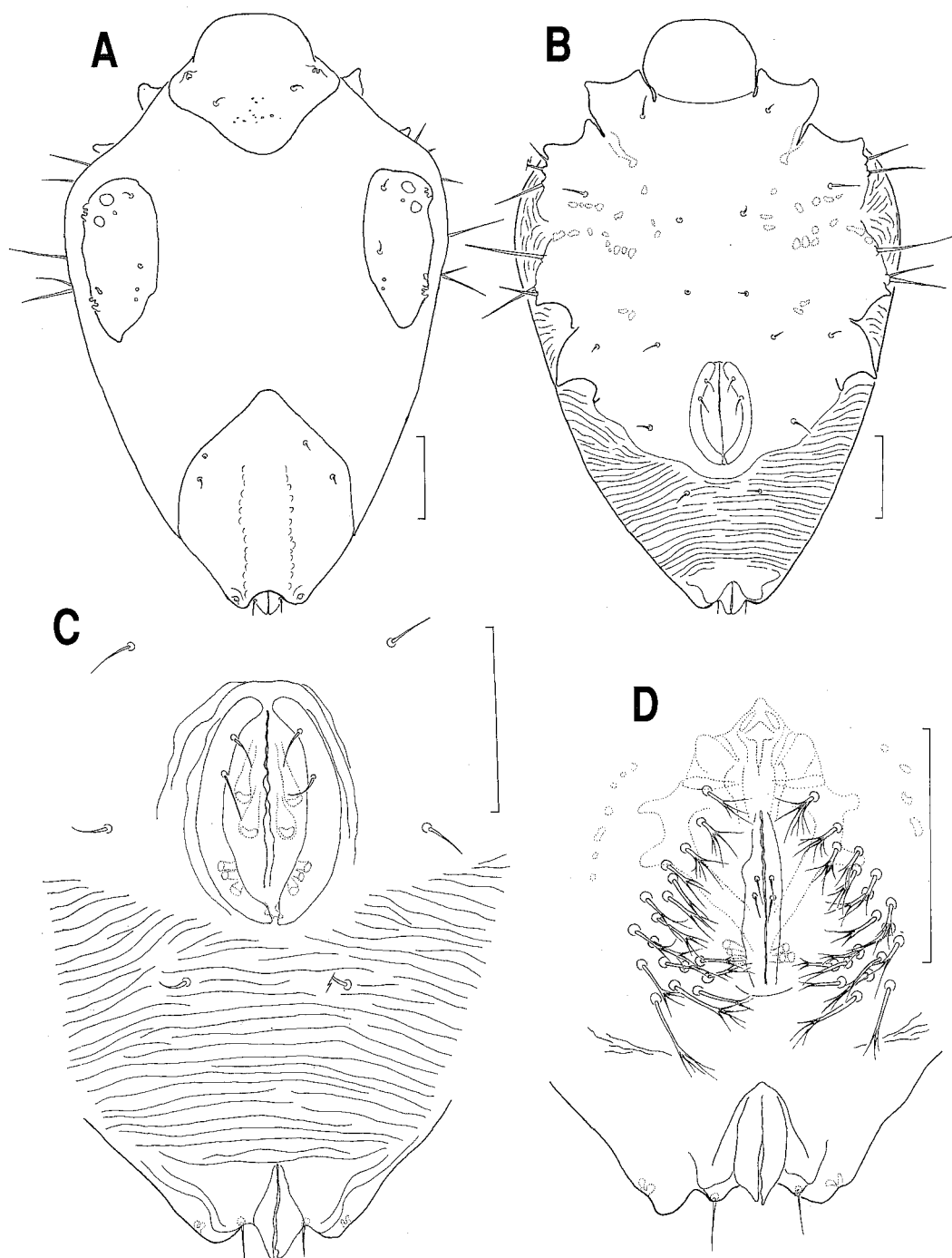


Fig. 46. *Rhombognathus medialis* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr); C, genitoanal region. Male (allotype). D, genitoanal region. Scale bars=50 μm.

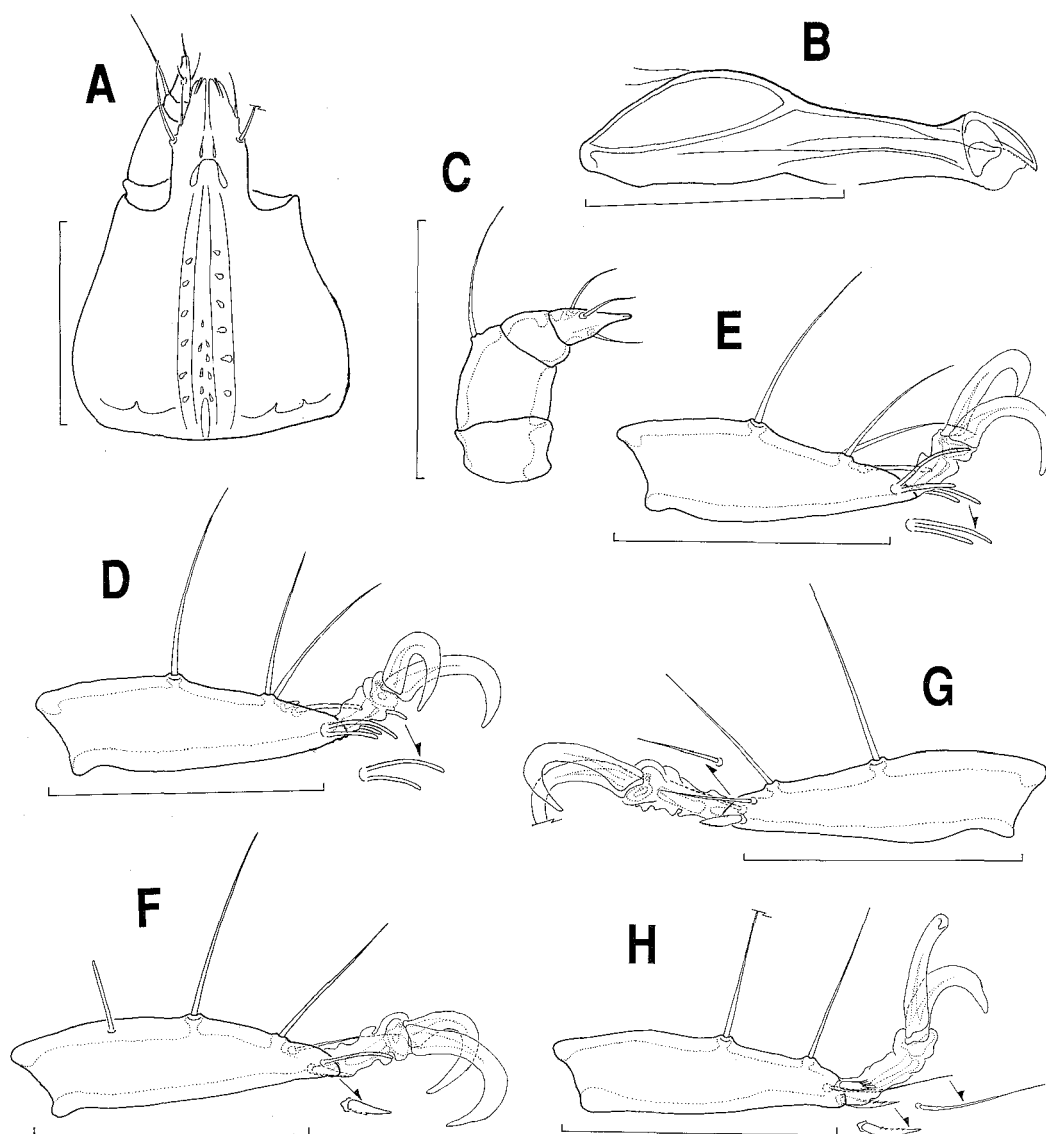


Fig. 47. *Rhombognathus medialis* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); B, chelicera (L); C, palp (L); D, tarsus I (L); E, tarsus II (L); F, tarsus III (R); G, tarsus IV (R). Male (allotype). H, tarsus IV (R). Scale bars=50 μ m.

insertion of leg III, furnished with two corneae and two polygonal pores, bearing one tiny pore-like structure anteriorly to posterior pore, one maze-like subsurface pore medially to corneae, and two tiny subsurface pores near posteromedial margin. Areolation indistinct. PD 122 μ m long, 100 μ m wide, reaching anteriorly to level of insertion of leg IV, strongly protruded at the both sides of terminal end, furnished with a dorsal pore on posterior margin on each side. Costae inconspicuous.

Chaetotaxy of dorsal region: Dorsal setae short. Setae ds-i on AD; ds-ii each on OC near anterior margin; ds-iii each on OC near medial margin; ds-iv and ds-v on PD, near

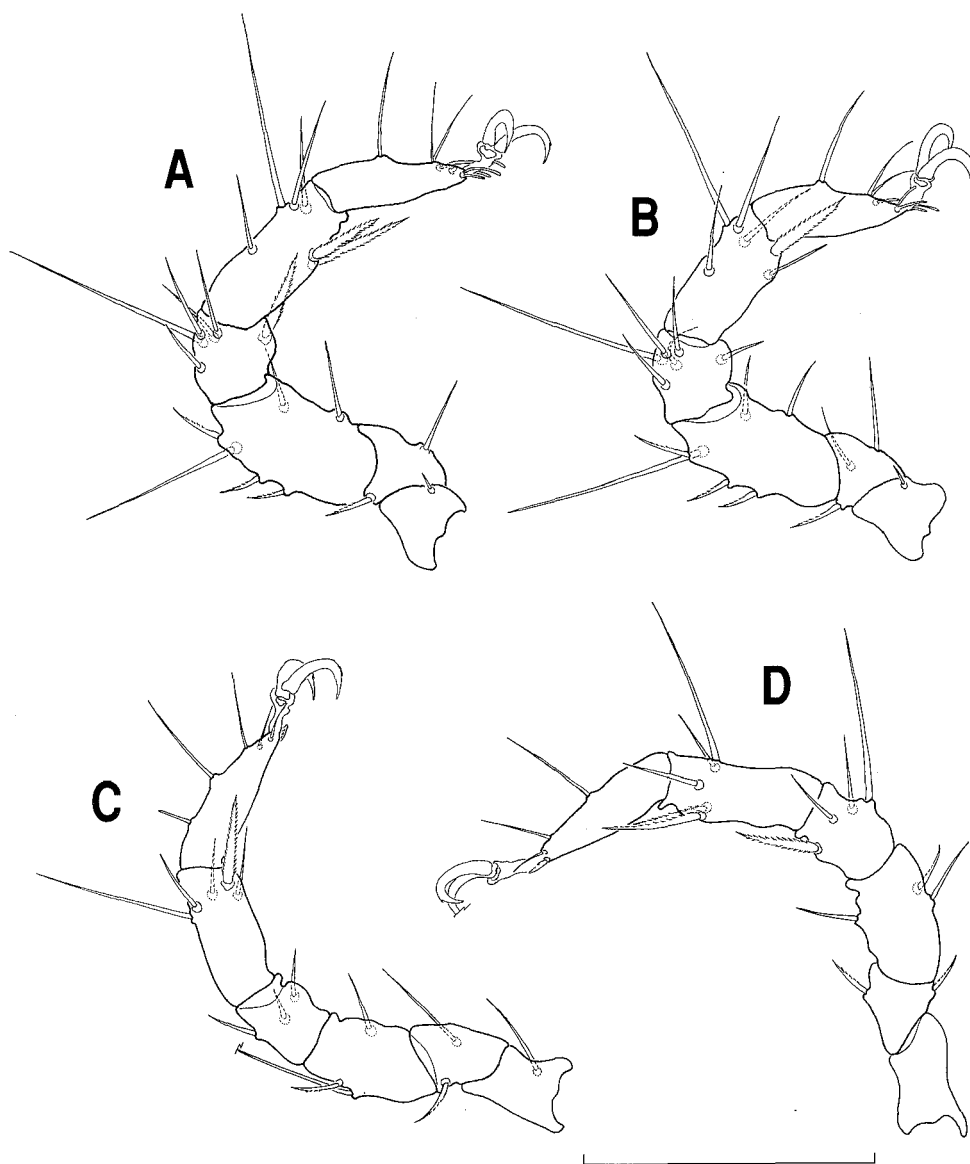


Fig. 48. *Rhombognathus medialis* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, leg I (L); B, leg II (L); C, leg III (R); D, leg IV (R). Scale bar=100 μ m.

anterolateral margin.

Venter (Fig. 46B): Epimeral, and genital plates fused to form a single plate. Anal plate isolated at distal end of venter. Epimeral region entirely reticulated with faint panels, furnished with several subsurface pores medially, and with epimeral pore between insertions of leg I and leg II on each side. Lateral incisions with membranous cuticle very weak.

Chaetotaxy of epimeral region: Setae aes-i located at posteriorly to camerostome; aes-ii-lat placed medially at level posterior to insertion of leg II; aes-ii-v placed medially; aes-ii-adj located on lateral margins, each consisting of two or three setae; pes-iii-lat placed

dorsolaterally on posterior epimeral region; pes-iii-v near lateral margins; pes-iv-a placed most medially at level of insertion of leg III; pes-iv-p located at level anterior to insertion of leg IV; pes-iii-adj placed dorsolaterally, each consisting of one seta.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 46C): Genital region surrounded posteriorly with striated membranous cuticle. Genital foramen completely separated from anal foramen by wide membranous area. Genital foramen 60 μm long, 34 μm wide, placed anteriorly at level slightly anterior to insertion of leg IV. Genital sclerites band-like, with three pairs of internal genital acetabula. Spermatheca indistinct.

Chaetotaxy of genitoanal region: Three pairs of filiform perigenital setae located at genitoanal region as arranged in Fig. 46C. Subgenital setae filiform; two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Adanal setae placed on anal papilla distidorsally.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 47A): 90 μm long, 70 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.25. Base, length/width 0.85. Rostrum 32 μm long, nearly lanceolate, not reaching to level of distal end of palp. Rostral setae two pairs as follows: Proximal pair long and robust, at swollen point; distal pair short, at just anterior to proximal pair. Chelicera (Fig. 47B) with basal segment 74 μm long, and movable digit 14 μm long, bearing 12-13 minute denticles along dorsal edge. Fixed digit extending distally to dorsal edge of movable digit. Palp (Fig. 47C) 42 μm long; P-1 short and cylindrical; P-2 longest and robust, with a long filiform seta distidorsally; P-3 short and cylindrical; P-4 conical, with three short and thick filiform setae intermediately.

Legs (Figs. 48A-D): Length of legs I, II, III, IV=216, 212, 224, 230 μm respectively. Ornamentation indistinct. Lateral claw with very faint accessory tooth.

Leg chaetotaxy as follows: Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-3-2-2; telofemora I-IV, 6-6-3-3; genua I-IV, 6-6-3-4; tibiae I-IV, 6-6-5-5. As for large bipectinate setae: Genua I-IV, 1-0-0-1; tibiae I-IV, 2-1-1-2 (one seta is less pectinated). Tarsus I (Fig. 47D) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, one famulus, and four parambulacral setae (paired doublet euphathidia). Solenidion long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus papilliform with fine canaliculus at proximally to solenidion. Tarsus II (Fig. 47E) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, and four parambulacral setae. Solenidion long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Tarsus III (Fig. 47F) with four dorsal setae and two parambulacral setae (one single euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface). Tarsus IV (Fig. 47G) with three dorsal setae (one long filiform seta on basal claw fossa, one filiform seta on distal claw fossa, one fine filiform seta on anterodorsal surface) and two parambulacral setae (one filiform euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Male (allotype)

Idiosoma 316 μm long, 216 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.25, resembling the female in essential respects except for character states of genitoanal region and chaetotaxy of tarsus IV.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 46D) incised laterally with membranous cuticle, furnished with a series of polygonal subsurface pores on each side of genital foramen, bearing branched 19 and 18 perigenital setae on each side of the foramen as arranged in Fig. 46D. Genital foramen 36 μm long, 12 μm wide. Subgenital setae two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Genital acetabula three pairs. Spermatophorotype (cf. Fig. 46D) 58 μm long, 50 μm wide, massive and rhombic.

Tarsus IV (Fig. 47H) furnished with three dorsal setae (one long thick filiform seta on basal claw fossa, one filiform seta on distal claw fossa, one delicate filiform seta on anterodorsal surface of claw fossa) and two parambulacral setae (one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior and posterior surface).

Morphological variation and abnormality

The size range of the idiosoma, gnathosoma, and legs I-IV as follows.

Female (n=6). Idiosoma-length: 336-368 μm , -width: 188-240 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 78-90 μm , -width: 64-80 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 198-228 μm ; leg II, 202-222 μm ; leg III, 182-226 μm ; leg IV, 210-240 μm .

Male (n=2). Idiosoma-length: 300-316 μm , -width: 192-216 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 78-80 μm , -width: 60-68 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 206-208 μm ; leg II, 196-202 μm ; leg III, 184-206 μm ; leg IV, 180-208 μm .

The leg chaetotaxy varies among adult specimens (n=8) as follows: Trochanters I-IV, (0,1)-(0,1)-1-0; basifemora I-IV, (1,2)-3-2-2; telofemora I-IV, (4,6,7)-6-3-(3,4); genua I-IV, 6-(5,6)-3-4; tibiae I-IV, 6-(5,6)-5-5. One of two bipectinate setae of tibia IV is less pectinated in some specimens. One specimen has only three dorsal setae on tarsus III.

The number of setae aes-ii-adj varies from two to three on each side of epimeral region. The number of the perigenital setae on each side of the genital foramen varies from 17 to 19 in the male.

Remarks

The outstanding character states of *Rhombognathus medialis* are the most medial location of the setae pes-iv-a, the terminal exsertion of the lateral sides of posterior dorsal plate, and the presence of a scaliform proeuphathidium on each anterior and posterior surface of tarsus IV in the male. In so far known *Rhombognathus* species, the position of the setae pes-iv-a is distinctly lateral than that of setae aes-ii-v. In *R. medialis*, however, the location of the setae pes-iv-a is approximately same as or more medial than that of aes-ii-v.

R. medialis bears general resemblance to *R. leurodactylus* Krantz, 1976, *R. lionyx* Trouessart, 1899, and *R. subtilis* Bartsch, 1975. But *R. medialis* is easily distinguishable from these species by the above mentioned character states.

R. medialis has been found mainly from the coarse sandy sediment at intertidal zone. The present species would be a primarily arenicolous or epibenthic dweller.

The specific epithet is derived from the medial position of setae pes-iv-a.

Habitat—Intertidal zone: Algae - *Sargassum thunbergii*, *Laminaria angustata*, *Cystoseira hakodatensis* in tide pool. Coarse sandy sediment on tidal line to 0.3 m depth.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Oshoro, Daikoku Island, Sakaeura.

Rhombognathus neotenus sp. nov.

[Japanese name: Osana-kaisoudani]

(Figs. 49-53)

Type series. Holotype: Female, among *Mytilus edulis* on tetrapod, intertidal, Date, Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 14.xii.1989, H. Abé coll. Allotype: Male, among *Balanus cariosus* on tetrapod, intertidal, Tomakomai, Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 27.iii.1989, H. Abé coll. Paratypes: 1 deutonymph, locality same as the allotype, 5.viii.1986, H. Abé coll.; 2 females and 2 males, locality same as the allotype, 24.ii.1989, H. Abé coll.; 1 female, locality same as the allotype, 27.iii.1989, H. Abé coll.; 1 deutonymph, locality same as the allotype, 10.iv.1989, H. Abé coll.; 3 females, *Enteromorpha intestinalis* on gravels at a depth of 0.1 m, Shizunai, Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 22.v.1989, H. Abé coll.; 2 deutonymphs, locality same as the allotype, 22.v.1989, H. Abé coll.; 1 female, data same as the holotype; 1 female, *Enteromorpha intestinalis* on gravels at a tidal line, Shizunai, Pacific coast of Hokkaido, 20.iii.1992, H. Abé coll.

Female (holotype)

Idiosoma 328 μm long, 204 μm wide. Color in life dark green.

Dorsum (Fig. 49A): Dorsal plate ornamented with clear panels (Fig. 49C) and partly with

fine canaliculi. AD and PD separated by interval of less than PD-length. AD 104 μm long, 100 μm wide, strongly protruded anteriorly and truncated posteriorly, furnished with a dorsal pore near each lateral margin, without distinct areolation. OC 90 μm long, extending posteriorly to level of the insertion of leg III, furnished with two large corneae and two large polygonal pores, bearing one pore-like angular structure near lateral margin, one maze-like subsurface pore medially to anterior cornea. Areolation not clear. PD 162 μm long, 114 μm wide, convex anteriorly, furnished with small subsurface pore on lateral margin, and with dorsal pore on posterolateral margin on each side. Costae absent.

Chaetotaxy of dorsal region: Setae ds-i on AD, longer and thicker than the others; ds-ii each on OC near anterior margin; ds-iii each on OC near medial margin; ds-iv placed on anterolateral margin of PD; and ds-v at mid level on PD.

Venter (Fig. 49B): Membranous cuticle clearly striated. Ventral plates each separated and entirely ornamented with porous panels. AE 82 μm long, 204 μm wide, concave posteriorly, reaching posteriorly to level about midway between insertions of leg II and leg III, furnished with a number of subsurface pores medially as well as along posterior margin, and with epimeral pore between insertions of leg I and leg II on each side. A pair of round subsurface pores located on striated membranous cuticle posteriorly to AE. PE 122 μm long, ornamented with several subsurface pores along anterolateral margin. Genital plate 84 μm long, 86 μm wide, subtriangular in shape, reaching anteriorly to level posterior to the insertion of leg III. Anal plate 90 μm wide, separated from genital plate by a strip of striated membranous cuticle.

Chaetotaxy of epimeral region: Setae aes-i on AE, at level of the insertion of leg II; aes-ii-lat on AE, near posterolateral margins; aes-ii-v on AE, near posterior margin; aes-ii-adj located near lateral margins, each consisting of two setae; pes-iii-lat located dorsally on PE; pes-iii-v at lateral margins of PE; pes-iii-adj placed dorsally on PE, each consisting of one thick seta; pes-iv-a on PE, at level of insertion of leg III; pes-iv-p placed at level anterior to insertion of leg IV.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 50A): A round subsurface pore placed near each anterolateral margin of genital plate. Genital foramen 70 μm long, 40 μm wide, elliptical, located posteromedially on genital plate. Genital sclerites band-like, extending posteriorly somewhat beyond posterior margin of genital plate. Genital acetabula internal, only two pairs visible. Spermatheca not seen.

Chaetotaxy of genitoanal region: Two pairs of long filiform perigenital setae located on genital plate as arranged in Fig. 50A. Subgenital setae short filiform; two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Adanal setae placed distidorsally on anal papilla.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 49D): 80 μm long, 70 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.24. Base, length/width 0.73, slightly expanded laterally, ornamented with several panels. Rostrum approximately 30 μm long, Rostral setae two pairs as follows: Proximal pair long and robust, at half level of rostrum; distal pair at just anterior to proximal pair. Chelicera (Fig. 49E) with basal segment 76 μm long, and movable digit 18 μm long, bearing 11-12 minute denticles along dorsal edge. Fixed digit extending distally to about midway of movable digit. Palp (Fig. 49F) 48 μm long; P-1 short and cylindrical; P-2 longest and robust, weakly reticulated, with a filiform seta distidorsally; P-3 short and cylindrical; P-4 conical, with three short and thick filiform setae intermediately, and with two appressed blunt spiniform projections terminally.

Legs (Figs. 51A-D): Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 222, 228, 234, 236 μm respectively, ornamented with fine porous panels which are clear on telofemora. Lateral claw with tiny dentations along inner edge and faint accessory tooth. Short setae usually faintly rough; long seta smooth.

Leg chaetotaxy as follows: Trochanters I-IV: 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-3-2-2;

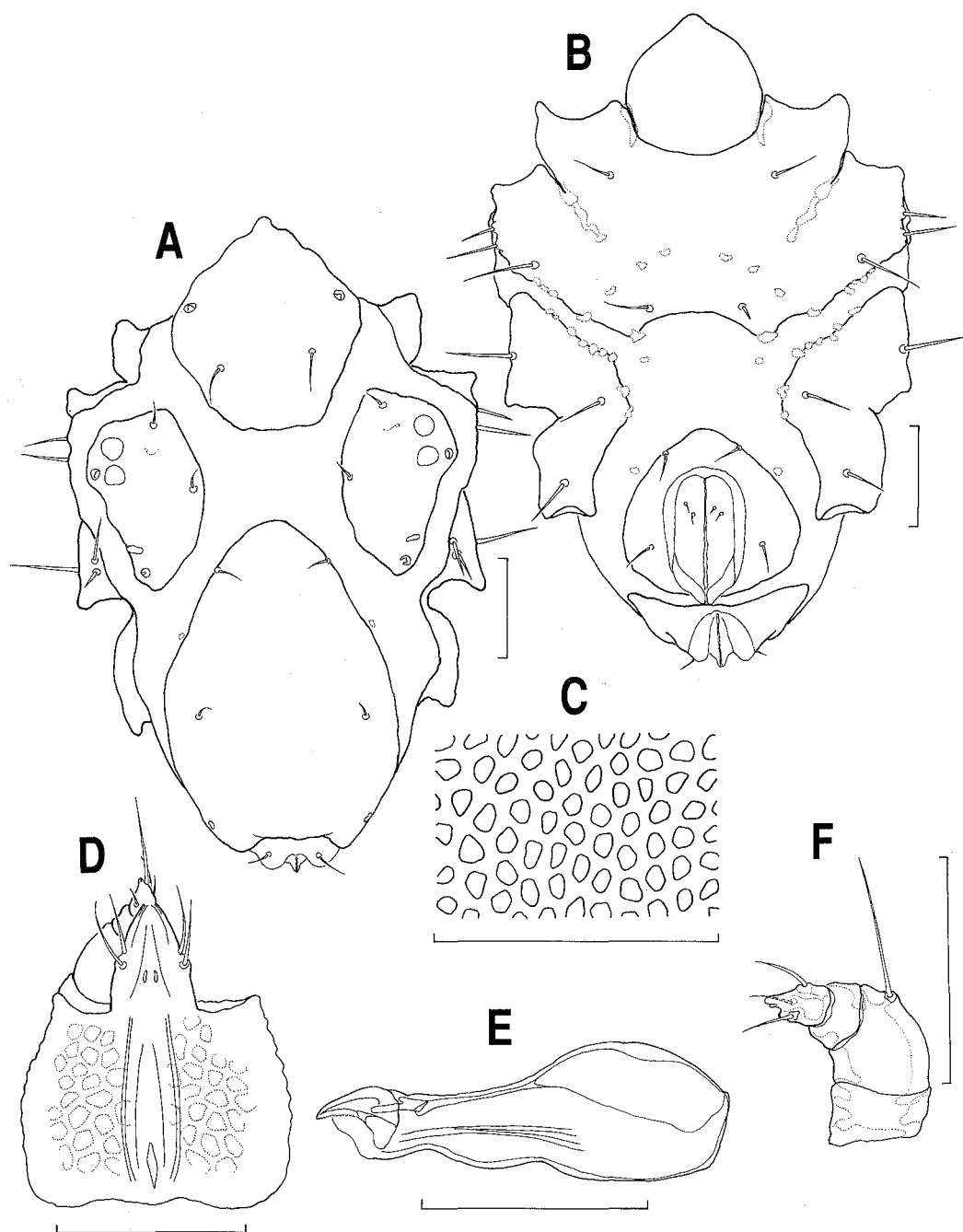


Fig. 49. *Rhombognathus neotenus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr); C, panels on PD; D, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); E, chelicera (L); F, palp (L). Scale bars=50 μ m.

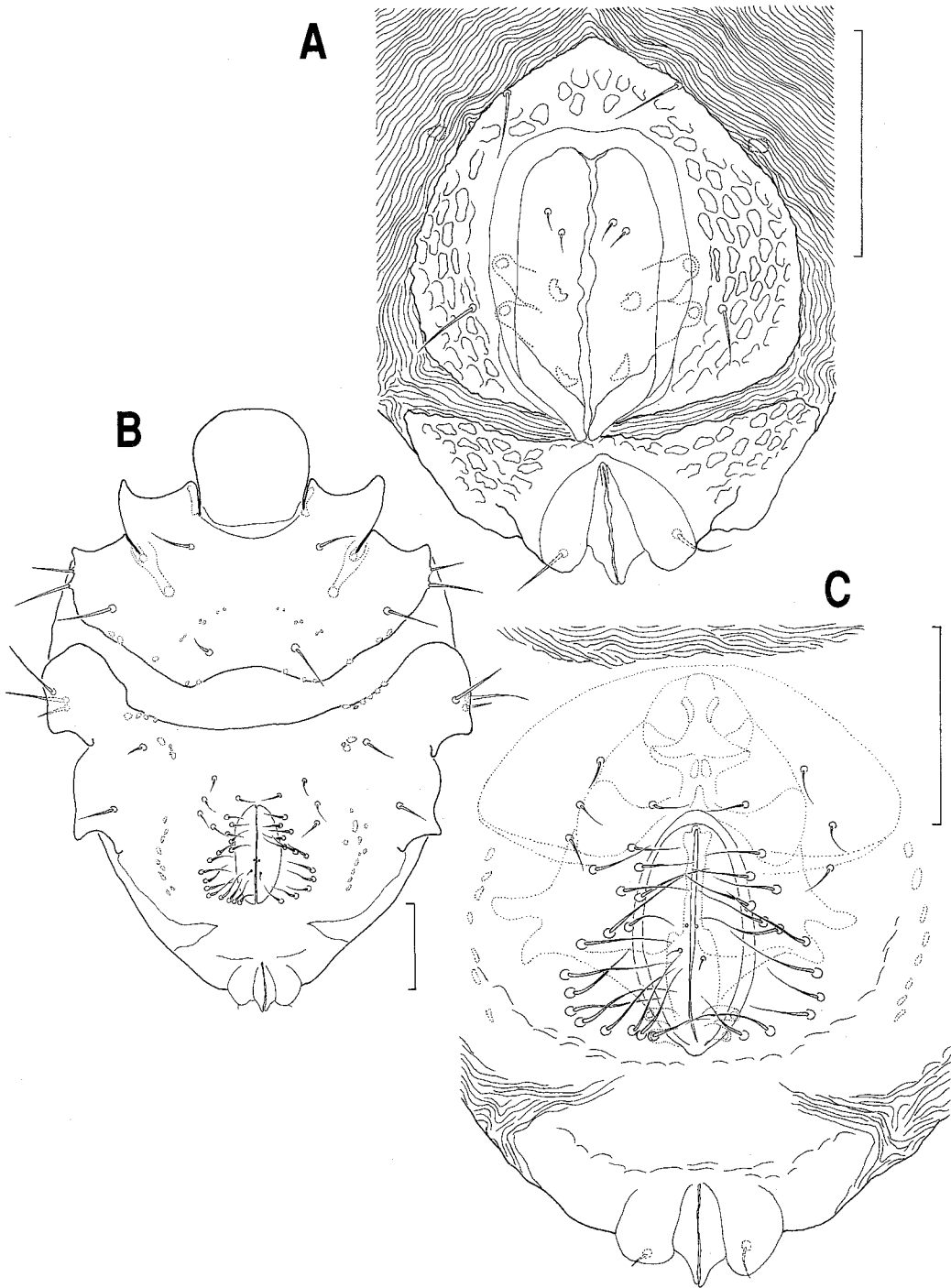


Fig. 50. *Rhombognathus neotenus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, genitoanal region. Male (allotype). B, idiosoma (Vr); C, genitoanal region. Scale bars=50 μ m.

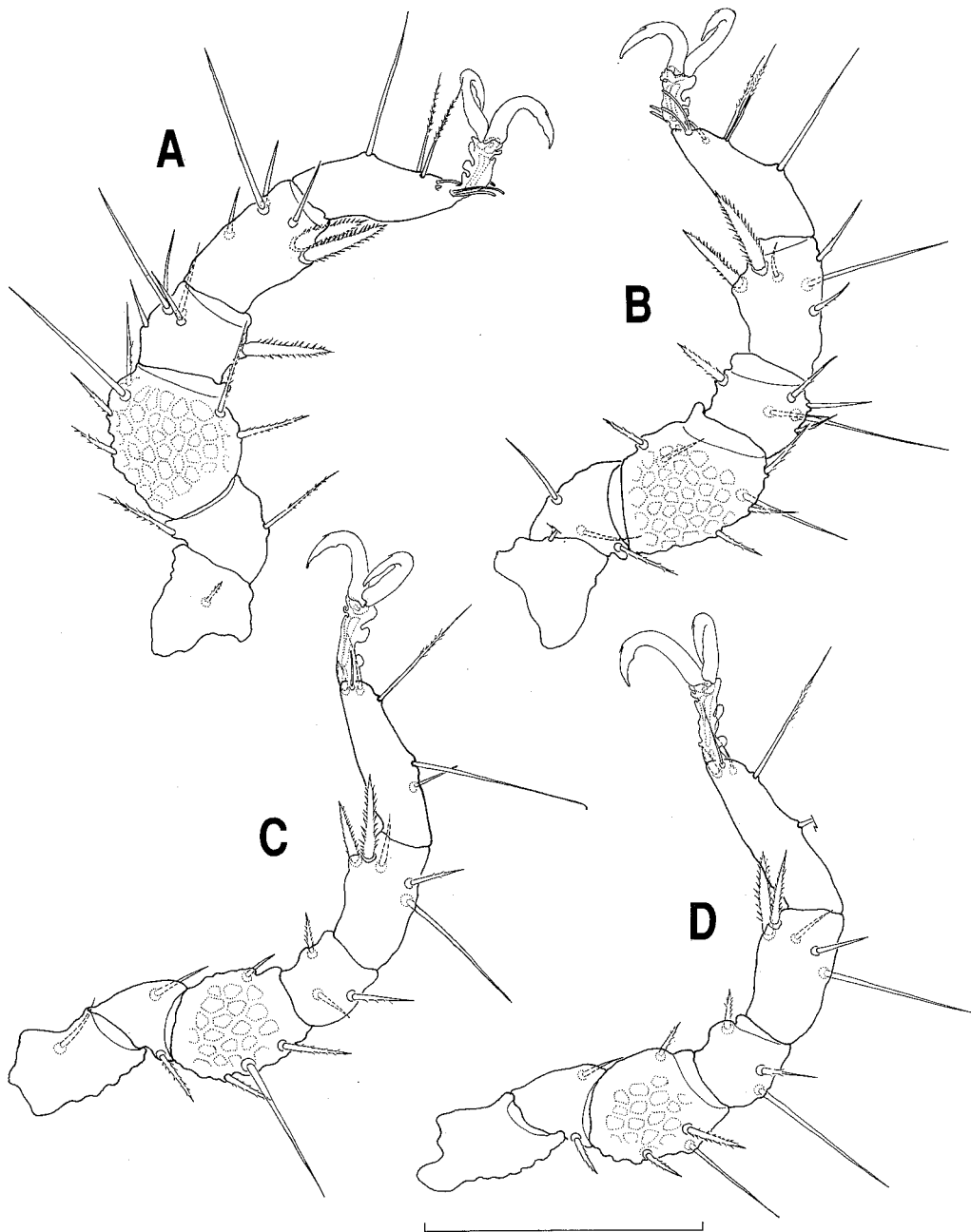


Fig. 51. *Rhombognathus neotenus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, leg I (R); B, leg II (R); C, leg III (L); D, leg IV (L). Male (allotype). E, leg IV (L). Scale bar=100 μ m.

telofemora I-IV, 6-6-4-4; genua I-IV, 6-6-3-3; tibiae I-IV, 6-6-5-5. As for large bipectinate setae: Genua I-IV: 1-0-0-0; tibiae I-IV, 2-2-2-2; genu II also with a bipectinate seta, but short and less pectinated. Tarsus I (Fig. 52A) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, one famulus, and four parambulacral setae (paired doublet euphathidia).

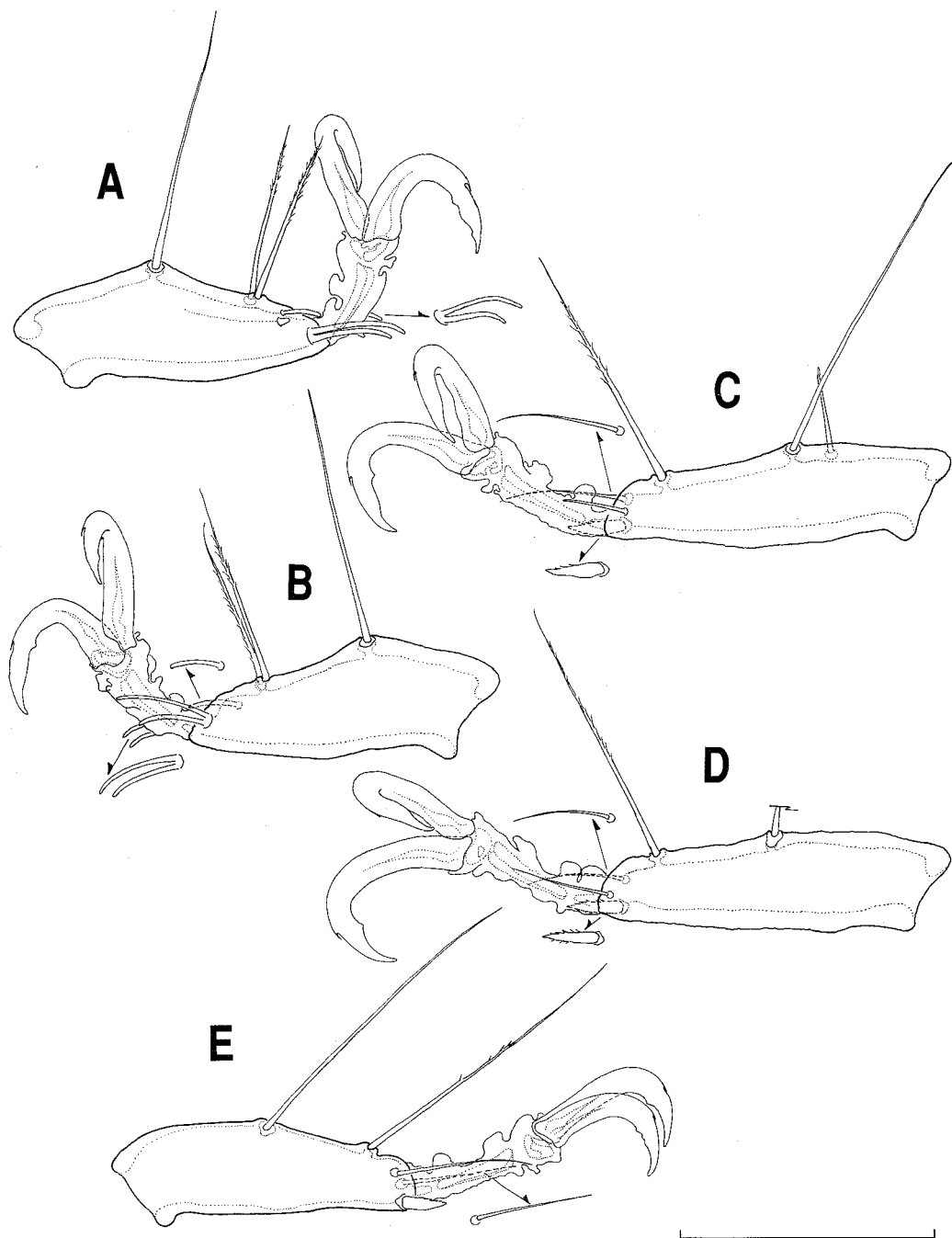


Fig. 52. *Rhombognathus neotenus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, tarsus I (R); B, tarsus II (R); C, tarsus III (L); D, tarsus IV (L). Male (allotype). E, tarsus IV (L). Scale bar = 50 μ m.

Solenidion long straight bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus papilliform with fine canaliculus at just ventrally to solenidion. Tarsus II (Fig. 52B) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, and four parambulacral setae. Solenidion long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Tarsus III (Fig. 52C) with four dorsal setae and two parambulacral setae (one single filiform euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface). Tarsus IV (Fig. 52D) with three dorsal setae (one long thick filiform seta on basal claw fossa, one faintly plumose seta on distal claw fossa, one fine filiform seta on anterodorsal surface) and two parambulacral setae (one fine filiform euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Male (allotype)

Idiosoma 340 μm long, 220 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.22 resembling the female in essential respects except for character states of epimeral plates and genitoanal region.

Venter (Fig. 50B): Posterior epimeral plates and genital plate completely fused to a single plate from which anal plate partly separated by lateral incisions with membranous cuticle.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 50C) furnished with a series of polygonal subsurface panels, and with 16 and 20 filiform perigenital setae on each side of genital foramen as arranged in Fig. 50C. Genital foramen 58 μm long, 30 μm wide. Only one pair of subgenital setae discernible at mid level on genital sclerite, but normally two pairs. Genital acetabula only two pairs. Spermatophorotype (cf. Fig. 50C) 90 μm long, 90 μm wide, very massive. Adanal setae one pair placed on anal papilla dorsally.

Tarsus IV (Fig. 52E) similar to that in the female.

Tritonymph (paratype)

Idiosoma 380 μm long, 240 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.21.

Dorsum: Dorsal plate ornamented with clear panels, and well developed as same as those of adults. AD 106 μm long, 104 μm wide, protruded anteriorly. OC 112 μm long. PD 190 μm long, 160 μm wide, strongly protruded anteriorly. AD and PD separated by interval about AD-length.

Venter: Epimeral plates separated and ornamented with clear panels. AE 88 μm long, 214 μm wide, furnished with one aes-ii-adj on each lateral margin. PE 120 μm long, without pes-iii-adj.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 53A): Genital plate and anal plate completely fused into genitoanal plate, 120 μm long, 104 μm wide, obovoid in shape, furnished with two pairs of perigenital and one pair of subgenital setae, bearing a tiny subsurface pore on each lateral margin. Primordial genital slit with only two pairs of internal genital acetabula.

Legs: Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 220, 216, 226, 226 μm respectively. Leg chaetotaxy of trochanters I-IV, 0-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-3-2-1; telofemora I-IV, 5-5-4-2; genua I-IV, 5-5-3-3; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. Distinct bipectinate setae on genua I-IV: 1-0-0-0, tibiae I-IV: 2-2-2-2.

Morphological variation and abnormality

The oviferous female specimens have large body size. Metric character states are given below.

Dorsum (Fig. 53B): AD and PD separated by interval of approximately three times as long as AD-length. AD 98 μm long, 100 μm wide, protruded anteriorly, reaching posteriorly to level of insertion of leg II, OC 90 μm long, separated from AD by about AD-length. PD 138 μm long, 122 μm wide, protruded anteriorly, separated from OC by about PD-length.

Venter (Fig. 53C): AE 76 μm long, 234 μm wide, convex posteriorly. PE 124 μm long.

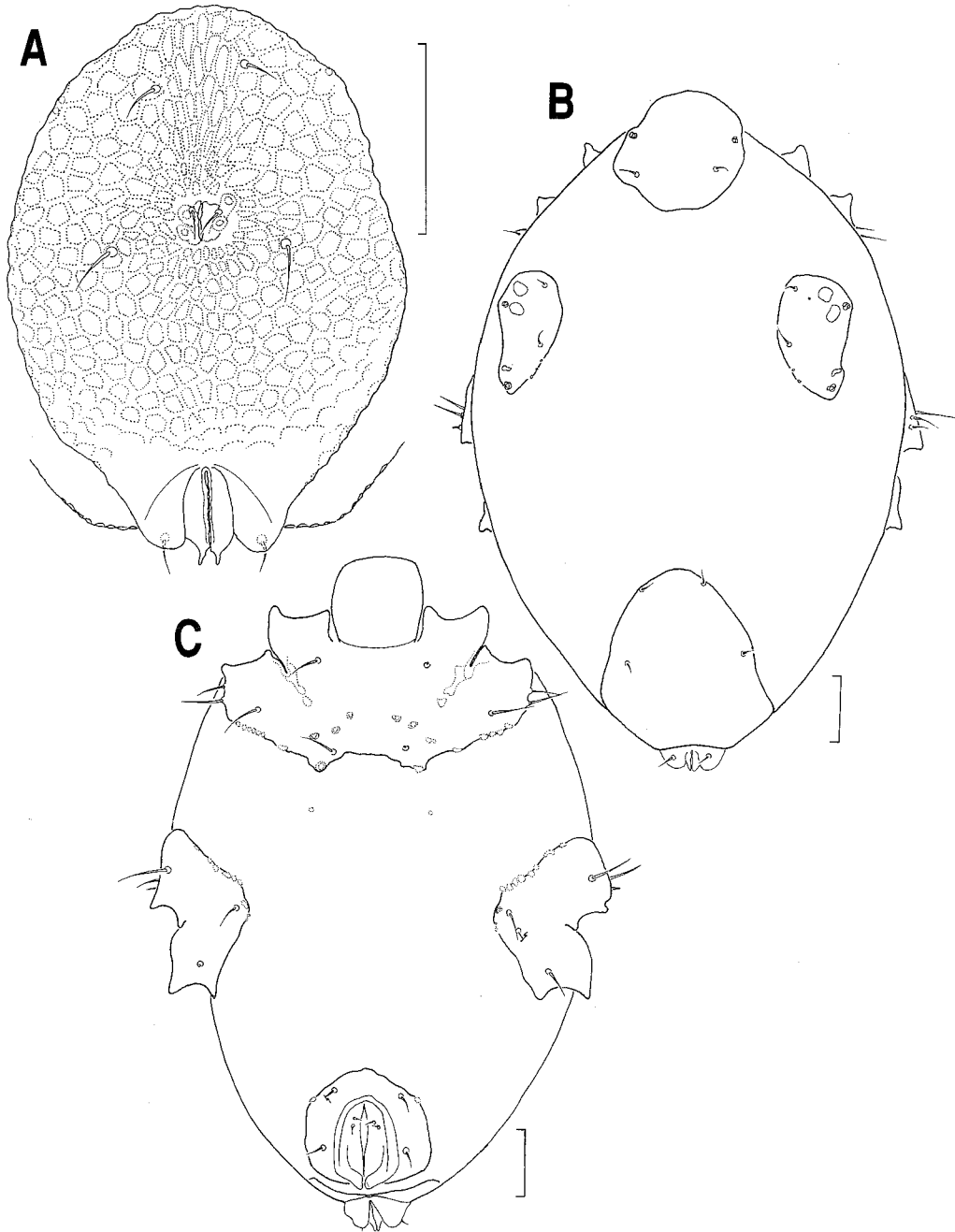


Fig. 53. *Rhombognathus neotenus* sp. nov., tritonymph (paratype). A, genitoanal region. Female (paratype). B, idiosoma (Ds); C, idiosoma (Vr). Scale bars=50 μ m.

Genital plate 92 μm long, 98 μm wide, separated from AE about three times as long as a length of the genital plate. Anal plate 104 μm wide.

Legs: Length of legs I, II, III, IV=240, 242, 256, 256 μm respectively.

The size range of the idiosoma, gnathosoma, and legs I-IV as follows.

Female (oviferous, $n=4$). Idiosoma-length: 504–564 μm , -width: 280–380 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 76–88 μm , -width: 68–80 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 222–250 μm ; leg II, 220–246 μm ; leg III, 228–276 μm ; leg IV, 232–268 μm .

Female (unoviferous, $n=4$). Idiosoma-length: 304–420 μm , -width: 192–272 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 76–92 μm , -width: 64–84 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 192–266 μm ; leg II, 200–254 μm ; leg III, 200–270 μm ; leg IV, 210–252 μm .

Male ($n=3$). Idiosoma-length: 340–348 μm , -width: 216–228 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 68–76 μm , -width: 60–66 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 194–200 μm ; leg II, 182–200 μm ; leg III, 194–208 μm ; leg IV, 192–204 μm .

Tritonymph ($n=4$). Idiosoma-length: 352–380 μm , -width: 240–268 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 70–80 μm , -width: 72–76 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 194–220 μm ; leg II, 196–216 μm ; leg III, 198–226 μm ; leg IV, 202–226 μm .

The leg chaetotaxy varies as follows.

Adult ($n=11$): Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-(2,3)-2-2; telofemora I-IV, (5,6,7)-(5,6)-(3,4,5)-4; genua I-IV, (4,5,6)-6-3-3; tibiae I-IV, (5,6)-(5,6)-(5,6)-5. As for large bipectinate setae varies as follows: Tibiae I-IV:2-2-(1,2)-(0,1,2).

Tritonymph ($n=4$): Trochanters I-IV, (0,1)-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-3-2-1; telofemora I-IV, 5-5-(3,4)-2; genua I-IV, 5-5-3-3; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. Bipectinate setae on tibiae III and IV are short and less pectinated.

The number of the perigenital setae on each side of the genital foramen varies from one to three in the female, 14 to 20 in the male. The number of setae aes-ii-adj on each side of anterior epimeral plate varies from two to three. One female specimen has two pes-iii-adj on each posterior epimeral plate. One tritonymph specimen has one pes-iii-adj.

Remarks

Rhombognathus neotenus is easily recognized on the basis of the condition of ventral plates (all plates are separated in the female, posterior epimeral, genital and anal plates are fused in the male), two pairs of perigenital setae in the female, filiform perigenital setae in the male, only two pairs of genital acetabula in adults, and tibiae I-IV with 2-2-2-2 large bipectinate setae.

R. neotenus closely resembles *R. gressitti* Newell, 1967, and *R. dictyotus* Bartsch, 1992 in the conformation of the ventral plates in adults. However, *R. neotenus* differs from the latter two species in having only two perigenital setae in the female, and two pairs of genital acetabula in adults.

The adult of *R. neotenus* well retains some nymphal conditions as follows: 1) ventral plate is completely separated in the female, 2) merely two perigenital setae exist on the genital plate in the female, 3) only two pairs of genital acetabula are present.

The oviferous female specimens are approximately 1.5 times as large as unoviferous ones. The membranous cuticle has a remarkable elasticity, and the adult body size abruptly increases with the germinal development. Taking such a growth mode into consideration, a caution must be paid when one treats body size as a significant taxonomic character.

Rhombognathus species generally have three pairs of genital acetabula in adults. *R. neotenus* is characterized by having two pairs of large genital acetabula which are typically seen in some *Isobacterus* species inhabiting low salinity water, e.g., *I. calderensis*, *I. hartmanni*, *I. hutchinsoni*, *I. macquariensis*, and *I. uniscutatus*. *R. neotenus* is usually found in brackish water in an estuarine area. The function of genital acetabula is known to participate in

osmotic regulation (Bartsch, 1973; Alberti & Storch, 1977; Alberti, 1979; Fashing, 1988; Evans, 1992). Therefore, the reduction of genital acetabula may relate to the low salinity environment.

The specific epithet is derived from the neotenic character states observed in the present species.

Habitat—Intertidal zone: Algae - *Enteromorpha intestinalis* on gravels, *Neorhodomela aculeata*, *Fucus evanescens* in tide pool. Mussels - *Mytilus edulis* on tetrapod. Barnacles - *Balanus cariosus* on tetrapod. Coarse sandy sediment.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Date, Tomakomai, Shizunai, Utoro.

***Rhombognathus sinensis* Bartsch, 1990**

[Japanese name: Shina-kaisoudani]

(Figs. 54-57)

Rhombognathus sinensis Bartsch, 1990, 663-664, fig. 2; Bartsch, 1992, 257-258, fig. 3.

Specimens examined. One female, on *Gymnogongrus flabelliformis* at a depth of 0.1 m in tide pool, intertidal, Oshoro (Nekodomari), Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 30.viii.1988, H. Abé coll.; 2 females and 2 males, among *Mytilus edulis* on ledge, intertidal, Oshoro (Nekodomari), Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 13.ii.1989, H. Abé coll.

Female

Idiosoma 324 μm long, 200 μm wide. Color in life dark green.

Dorsum (Fig. 54A): Dorsal plate uniformly ornamented with clear panels (Fig. 54F), and partly with fine canaliculi. AD and PD separated by interval of approximately a half of AD-length. AD 116 μm long, 114 μm wide, strongly protruded posteriorly, ornamented with weak areolation posteriorly, with a dorsal pore near each lateral margin. OC 49 μm long, extending anteriorly to level of the insertion of leg II, reaching posteriorly at level of insertion of leg III, furnished with two small corneae and two polygonal pores, bearing one tiny pore-like structure on lateral margin, one maze-like subsurface pore medially to corneae, and two tiny subsurface pores near each posteromedial margin. Areolation indistinct. PD 156 μm long, 114 μm wide, furnished with a small subsurface pore on anterolateral margin, and with dorsal pore on posterior margin on each side. Costae inconspicuous.

Chaetotaxy of dorsal region: Dorsal setae short. Setae ds-i on AD; ds-ii and ds-iii each on OC; ds-iv on PD, near anterolateral margin. Setae ds-v absent.

Venter (Fig. 54B): Epimeral and genitoanal plates fused to form a single plate. Ventral plates are entirely reticulated with weak porous panels. Epimeral region furnished with several subsurface pores medially, and with epimeral pore between insertions of leg I and leg II on each side, without clear lateral incisions.

Chaetotaxy of epimeral region: Setae aes-i located posteriorly to camerostome; aes-ii-lat placed near lateral margin; aes-ii-v placed most medially; aes-ii-adj located on dorsolateral margins, each consisting of one seta; pes-iii-lat placed dorsally on posterior epimeral region; pes-iii-v near lateral margins; pes-iv-a placed medially at level of slightly anterior to insertion of leg III; pes-iv-p located at level anterior to insertion of leg IV; pes-iii-adj located dorsolaterally, each consisting of one seta.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 55A): Genitoanal region without distinct lateral incisions. Genital foramen 76 μm long, 44 μm wide, occupying from level slightly posterior to insertion of leg IV to level anterior to anal foramen. Genital sclerites band-like, with three pairs of internal genital acetabula. Spermatheca indistinct.

Chaetotaxy of genitoanal region: Five pairs of filiform perigenital setae located at each

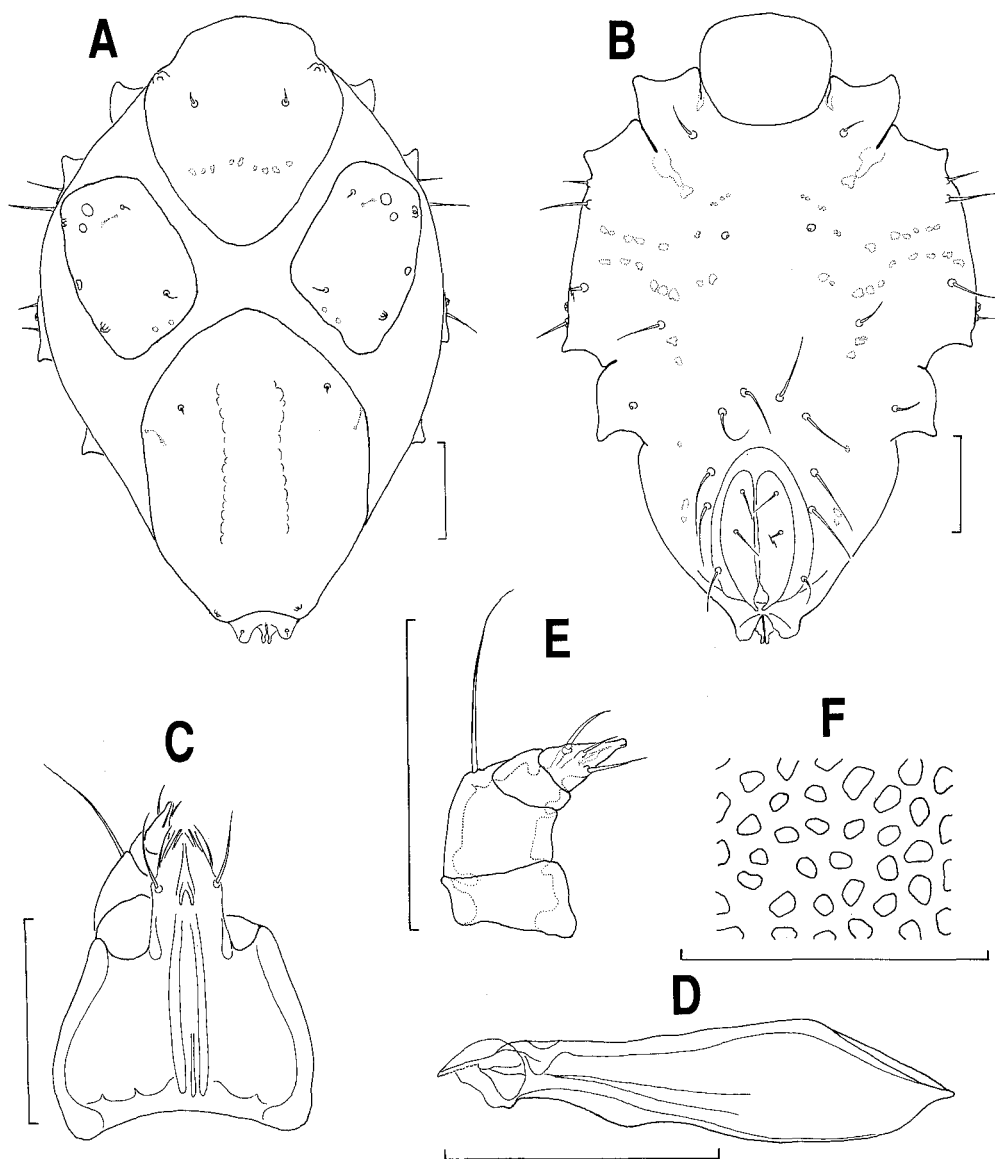


Fig. 54. *Rhombognathus sinensis* Bartsch, 1990, female. A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr); C, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); D, chelicera (L); E, palp (L); F, panels on PD. Scale bars=50 μ m.

side of genital foramen as arranged in Fig. 55A. Subgenital setae filiform; two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Adanal setae very fine, placed dorsally on anal papilla.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 54C): 74 μ m long, 64 μ m wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.23. Base, length/width 0.60. Rostrum 32 μ m long, nearly lanceolate, not reaching to level of distal end of palp. Rostral setae two pairs as follows: Proximal pair long and robust, at swollen point; distal pair short, at just anterior to proximal pair. Chelicera (Fig. 54D) with basal segment 72 μ m long, and movable digit 16 μ m long, bearing 10-12 denticles along dorsal

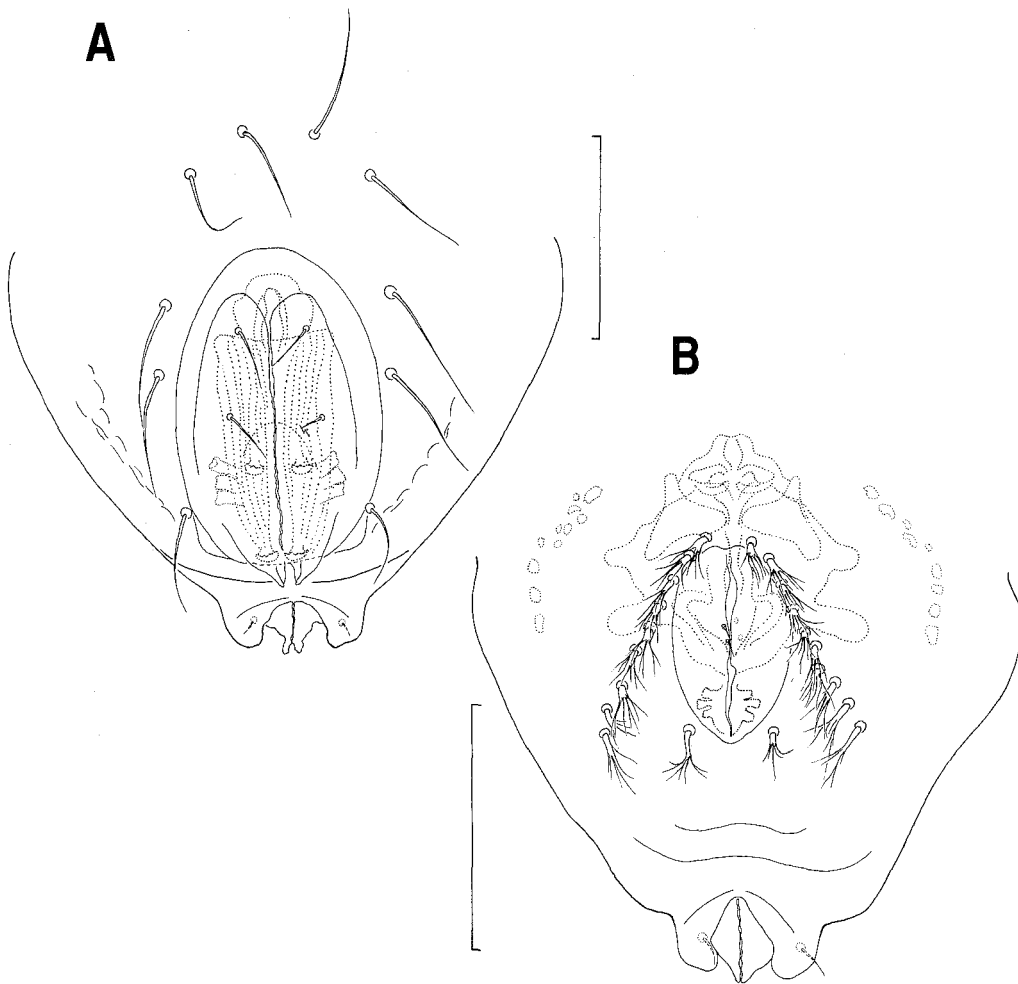


Fig. 55. *Rhombognathus sinensis* Bartsch, 1990, genitoanal region. A, female ; B, male. Scale bars= 50 μm .

edge. Fixed digit extending distally to mid level of movable digit. Palp (Fig. 54E) 40 μm long; P-1 short and cylindrical; P-2 longest, with a long filiform seta distidorsally; P-3 short and cylindrical; P-4 conical, with two filiform and one blade-like setae intermediately.

Legs (Figs. 56A-D): Length of legs I, II, III, IV=202, 184, 194, 192 μm respectively. Ornamentation indistinct. Lateral claw with palmate accessory process, bearing 6 to 10 delicate teeth.

Leg chaetotaxy as follows: Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-2-2; telofemora I-IV, 6-7-4-4; genua I-IV, 5-5-3-3; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. As for large bipectinate setae: Genua I-IV, 0-0-0-0; tibiae I-IV, 2-1-1-2 (one seta is less pectinated). Tarsus I (Fig. 57A) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, one famulus, and four parambulacral setae (paired doublet eupathidia). Solenidion long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus papilliform with fine canaliculus at just proximally to solenidion. Tarsus II (Fig. 57B) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, and four parambulacral setae.

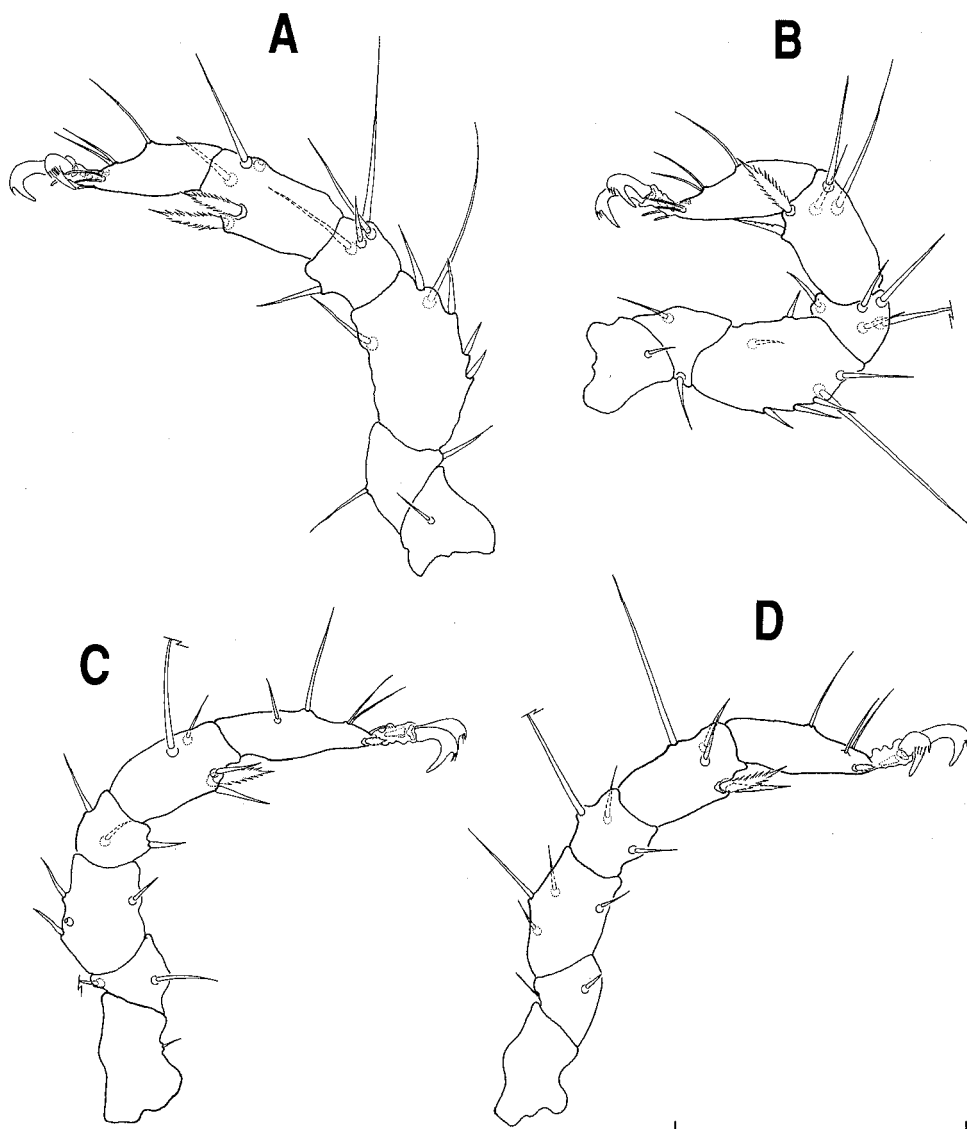


Fig. 56. *Rhombognathus sinensis* Bartsch, 1990, female. A, leg I (R); B, leg II (R); C, leg III (L); D, leg IV (L). Scale bar = 100 μ m.

Solenidion long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Tarsus III (Fig. 57C) with four dorsal setae and two parambulacral setae (one single euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface). Tarsus IV (Fig. 57D) with three dorsal setae (one long faintly plumose seta on basal claw fossa, two weakly plumose seta on distal claw fossa) and two parambulacral setae (one fine filiform euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Male

Idiosoma 280 μ m long, 168 μ m wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.26, resembling

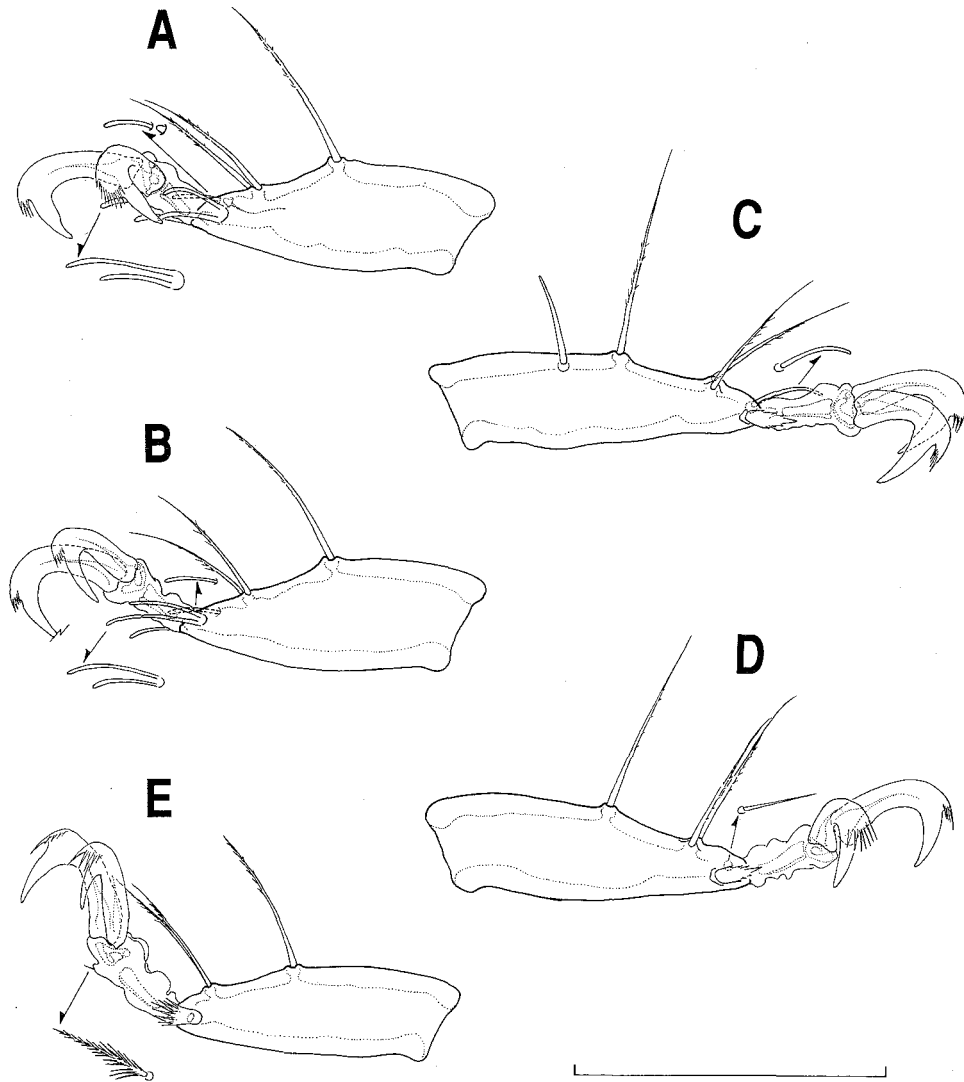


Fig. 57. *Rhombognathus sinensis* Bartsch, 1990, female. A, tarsus I (R); B, tarsus II (R); C, tarsus III (L); D, tarsus IV (L). Male. E, tarsus IV (R). Scale bar=50 μ m.

the female in essential respects except for character states of genitoanal region and chaetotaxy of tarsus IV.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 55B) furnished with a series of polygonal subsurface pores on each side of genital foramen, bearing 10 and 11 branched perigenital setae on each side of the foramen as arranged in Fig. 55B. Genital foramen 40 μ m long, 24 μ m wide. Subgenital setae two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Genital acetabula three pairs. Spermatophorotype (cf. Fig. 55B) 50 μ m long, 52 μ m wide, rhombic in form.

Tarsus IV (Fig. 57E) furnished with three dorsal setae (one faintly plumose seta on basal claw fossa, two weakly plumose seta on distal claw fossa) and two parambulacral setae (one long plumose proeuphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on

anterior surface).

Morphological variation and abnormality

The size range of the idiosoma, gnathosoma, and legs I-IV as follows.

Female (n=3). Idiosoma-length: 312-328 μm , -width: 192-200 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 72-74 μm , -width: 60-64 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 198-206 μm ; leg II, 184-192 μm ; leg III, 182-194 μm ; leg IV, 180-192 μm .

Male (n=2). Idiosoma-length: 280 μm , -width: 168-172 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 72-74 μm , -width: 56-60 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 180-198 μm ; leg II, 174-192 μm ; leg III, 176-192 μm ; leg IV, 176-192 μm .

The leg chaetotaxy varies among adult specimens (n=5) as follows: Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-(1,2,3)-2; telofemora I-IV, 6-(6,7)-(3,4)-(4,5); genua I-IV, (4,5)-(4,5)-(3,4)-3; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. As for large bipectinate setae: Genua I-IV, 0-0-0-0; tibiae I-IV, 2-1-(1,2)-(1,2).

The number of the perigenital setae on each side of the genital foramen varies from five to six in the female, 9 to 13 in the male.

Remarks

Rhombognathus sinensis is originally described by Bartsch (1990) from lower intertidal zone in the South China Sea. The specimens from Hokkaido, western North Pacific, are well consistent with the descriptions by Bartsch (1990, 1992). However, dorsal plates of specimens from Hokkaido are rather well developed than those of the specimens from Hong Kong, South China Sea. *R. sinensis* shares many significant character states with *R. notops* (Gosse, 1855), *R. paranotops* Bartsch, 1986, *R. magnirostris* Trouessart, 1889, *R. ventralis* Newell, 1984 and *R. incertus* sp. nov. However, *R. sinensis* is discernible from these congeners by the following character states: 1) dorsal plates are ornamented with round panels, 2) anterior dorsal plate is strongly protruded posteriorly, 3) ocular plate is nearly square in outline, 4) all dorsal setae are almost equal in length, 5) anterior epimeral plate has one adjunctive seta on each lateral margin, and 6) telofemora I-IV have (1,2)/5, 2/(4,5), 1/(2,3), 1/(3,4) ventral/dorsal setae.

Habitat—Intertidal zone: Algae - *Gymnogongrus flabelliformis*, *Sargassum* sp. in tide pool. Mussels - *Mytilus edulis* on ledge.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Oshoro.

***Rhombognathus tenuiformis* sp. nov.**

[Japanese name: Hoso-kaisoudani]

(Figs. 58-61)

Type series. Holotype: Female, coarse sand on tidal line, intertidal, Oshoro (Shirikoshi), Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 13.iv.1989, H. Abé coll. Allotype: Male, data same as the holotype. Paratypes: 3 females, locality same as the holotype, 22.iii.1989, H. Abé coll.; 1 female and 2 males, data same as the holotype; 1 female, locality same as the holotype, 1.v.1989, H. Abé coll.

Female (holotype)

Idiosoma 300 μm long, 144 μm wide. Color in life dark green.

Dorsum (Fig. 58A): Dorsal plates faintly sclerotized and membranous cuticle very weakly striated. Ornamentation indistinct, and panels detectable only on PD. Canaliculi not clear. AD and PD separated by interval approximately two times as long as AD-length. AD 70 μm long, 70 μm wide, weakly convex posteriorly, ornamented with weak areolation posteriorly, with a dorsal pore near each lateral margin. OC 96 μm long, extending anteriorly to level of insertion of leg II, reaching posteriorly at level of insertion of leg III, furnished with

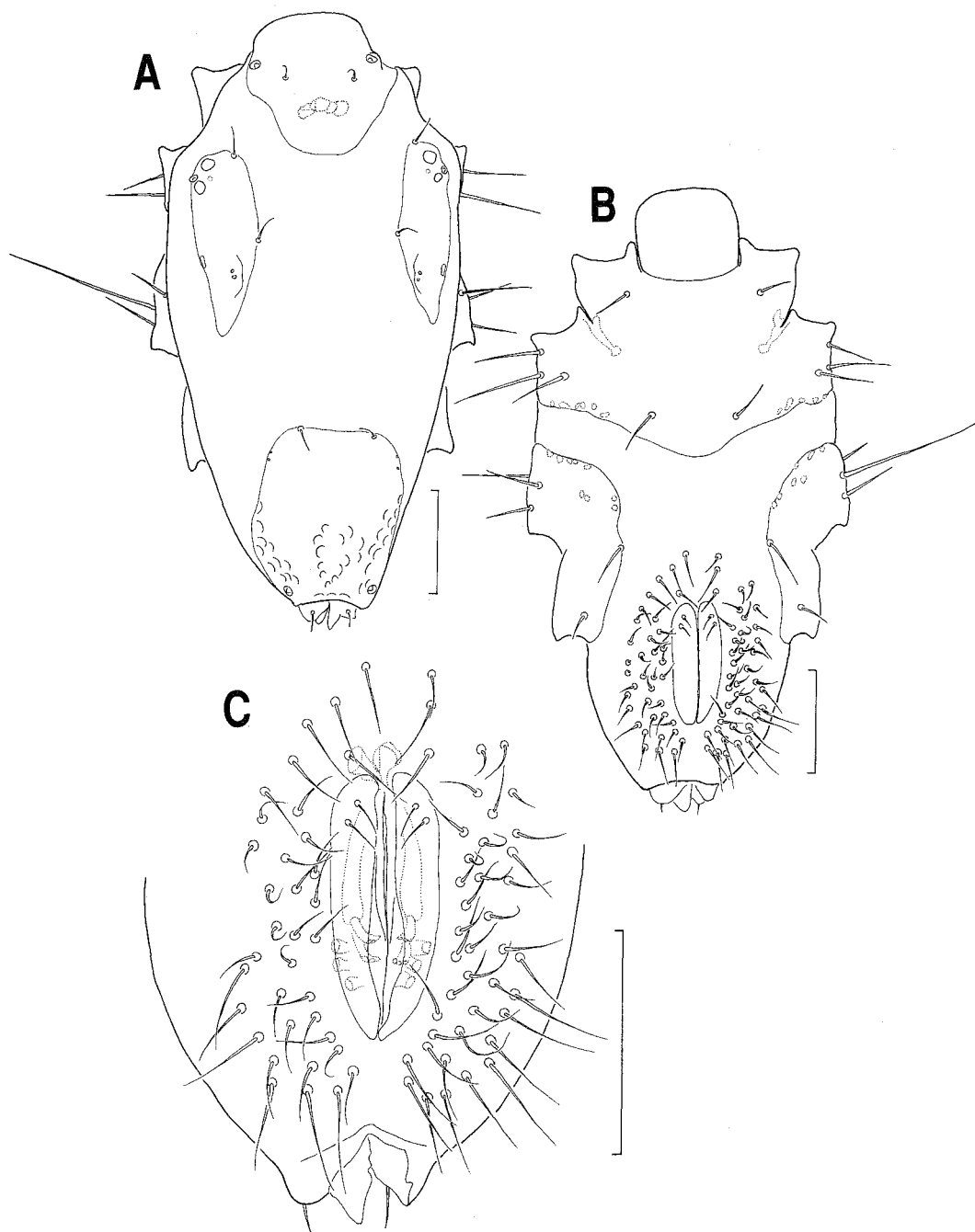


Fig. 58. *Rhombognathus tenuiformis* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, idiosoma (Ds) ; B, idiosoma (Vr) ; C, genitoanal region. Scale bars=50 μ m.

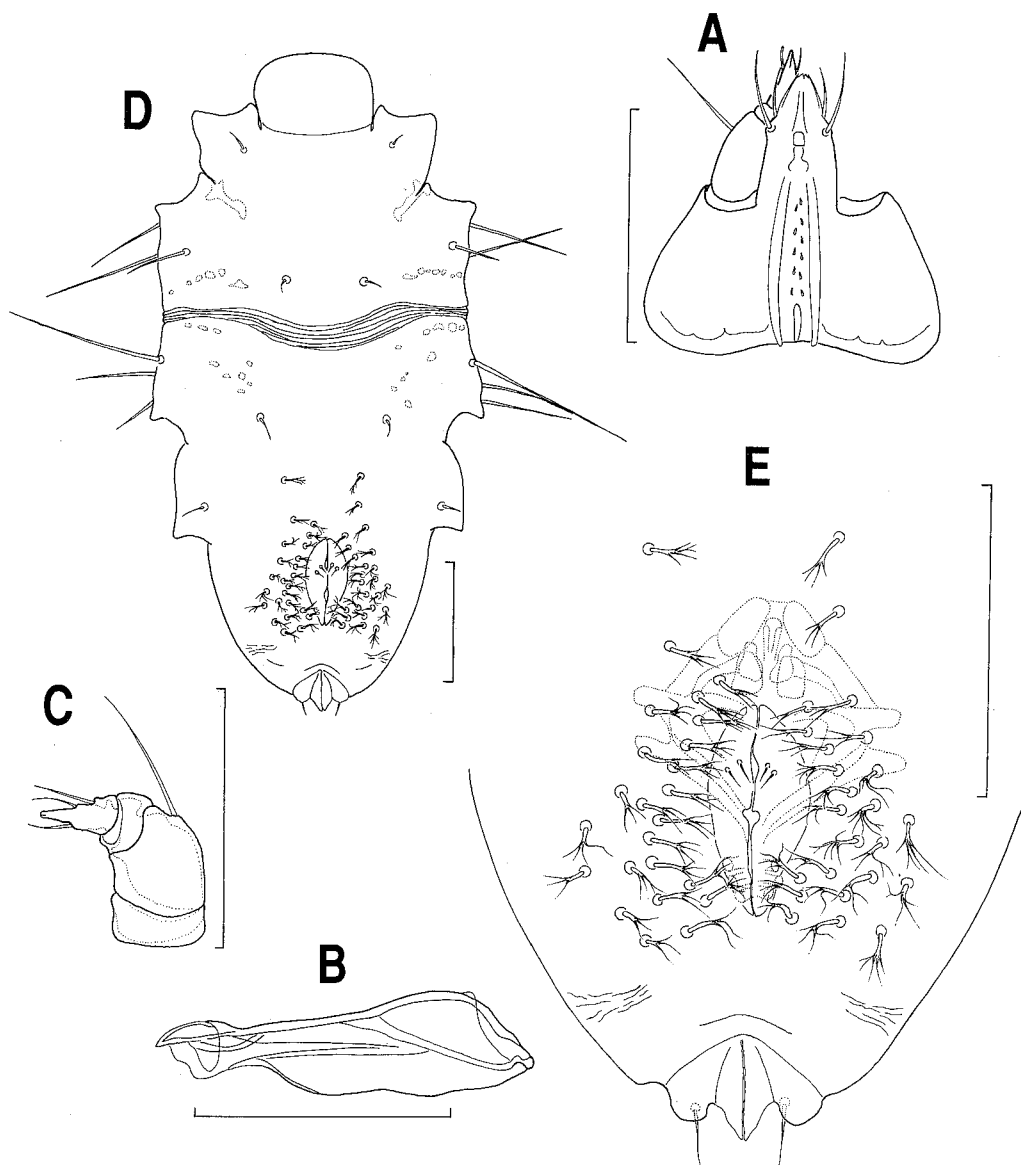


Fig. 59. *Rhombognathus tenuiformis* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); B, chelicera (L); C, palp (L). Male (allotype). D, idiosoma (Vr); E, genitoanal region. Scale bars = 50 μ m.

two corneae and one anterior polygonal pores, bearing one tiny pore-like structure at lateral margin and two tiny subsurface pores near posteromedial margin. PD 82 μ m long, 76 μ m wide, reaching anteriorly to level slightly anterior to insertion of leg IV, furnished with a dorsal pore near posterior margin on each side. Costae inconspicuous.

Chaetotaxy of dorsal region: Dorsal setae short. Setae ds-i on AD; ds-ii and ds-iii placed on lateral margin of OC; ds-iv on anterior margin of PD. Setae ds-v absent.

Venter (Fig. 58B): Epimeral plates separated. Genitoanal region only weakly sclerot-

ized, without distinct plate. Epimeral plates without reticulation. Anterior epimeral plate furnished with several subsurface pores posterolaterally, and with epimeral pore between insertions of leg I and leg II. Posterior epimeral plate furnished with some subsurface pores along anterior margin.

Chaetotaxy of epimeral region: Setae *aes-i* located at posteriorly to insertion of leg I; *aes-ii-lat* placed medially at level posterior to insertion of leg II; *aes-ii-v* placed most medially; *aes-ii-adj* located on lateral margins, each consisting of two setae; *pes-iii-lat* placed dorsolaterally on PE; *pes-iii-v* near lateral margins of PE; *pes-iv-a* placed on medial margins at level of insertion of leg III; *pes-iv-p* located at level anterior to insertion of leg IV; *pes-iii-adj* placed dorsolaterally, each consisting of one seta.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 58C): Genitoanal region sparsely scattered with perigenital setae. Genital foramen 60 μm long, 24 μm wide, placed anteriorly at level slightly anterior to insertion of leg IV. Genital sclerites band-like, with three pairs of internal genital acetabula. Spermatheca bilobed.

Chaetotaxy of genitoanal region: 35 and 41 filiform setae located on each side of genital foramen respectively as arranged in Fig. 58C. Subgenital setae filiform; two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Adanal setae placed on anal papilla dorsally.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 59A): 66 μm long, 56 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.22. Base, length/width 0.51. Rostrum 36 μm long, nearly lanceolate, not reaching to level of distal end of palp. Rostral setae two pairs as follows: Proximal pair long and robust, at swollen point; distal pair short, at just anterior to proximal pair. Chelicera (Fig. 59B) with basal segment 60 μm long, and movable digit 12 μm long, bearing 11-12 minute denticles along dorsal edge. Fixed digit extending distally to mid level of dorsal edge of movable digit. Palp (Fig. 59C) 38 μm long; P-1 short and cylindrical; P-2 longest and robust, with a long filiform seta distidorsally; P-3 short and cylindrical; P-4 conical, with three short and thick filiform setae intermediately.

Legs (Figs. 60A-D): Length of legs I, II, III, IV=170, 162, 188, 188 μm respectively. Ornamentation indistinct. Lateral claw with very faint accessory tooth.

Leg chaetotaxy as follows: Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-3-2-2; telofemora I-IV, 5-5-3-3; genua I-IV, 6-6-3-3; tibiae I-IV, 6-6-5-5. As for large bipectinate setae: Genua I-IV, 1-0-0-0; tibiae I-IV, 2-1-1-1. Tarsus I (Fig. 61A) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, one famulus, and four parambulacral setae (paired doublet euphathidia). Solenidion long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus papilliform with fine canaliculus at proximally to solenidion. Tarsus II (Fig. 61B) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, and four parambulacral setae. Solenidion long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Tarsus III (Fig. 61C) with three dorsal setae and two parambulacral setae (one single euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface). Tarsus IV (Fig. 61D) with three dorsal setae (one long filiform seta on basal claw fossa, one filiform seta on distal claw fossa, one fine filiform seta on anterodorsal surface) and two parambulacral setae (one fine filiform euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Male (allotype)

Idiosoma 280 μm long, 132 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.23, resembling the female in essential respects except for character states of ventral plates and genitoanal region.

Venter (Fig. 59D): Posterior epimeral plates and genitoanal plate fused into single plate. Epimeral plates without reticulation. Anterior epimeral plate furnished with several subsurface pores posterolaterally, and with urstigma between insertions of leg I and leg II on each side. Posterior epimeral region furnished with some subsurface pores along anterior margin.

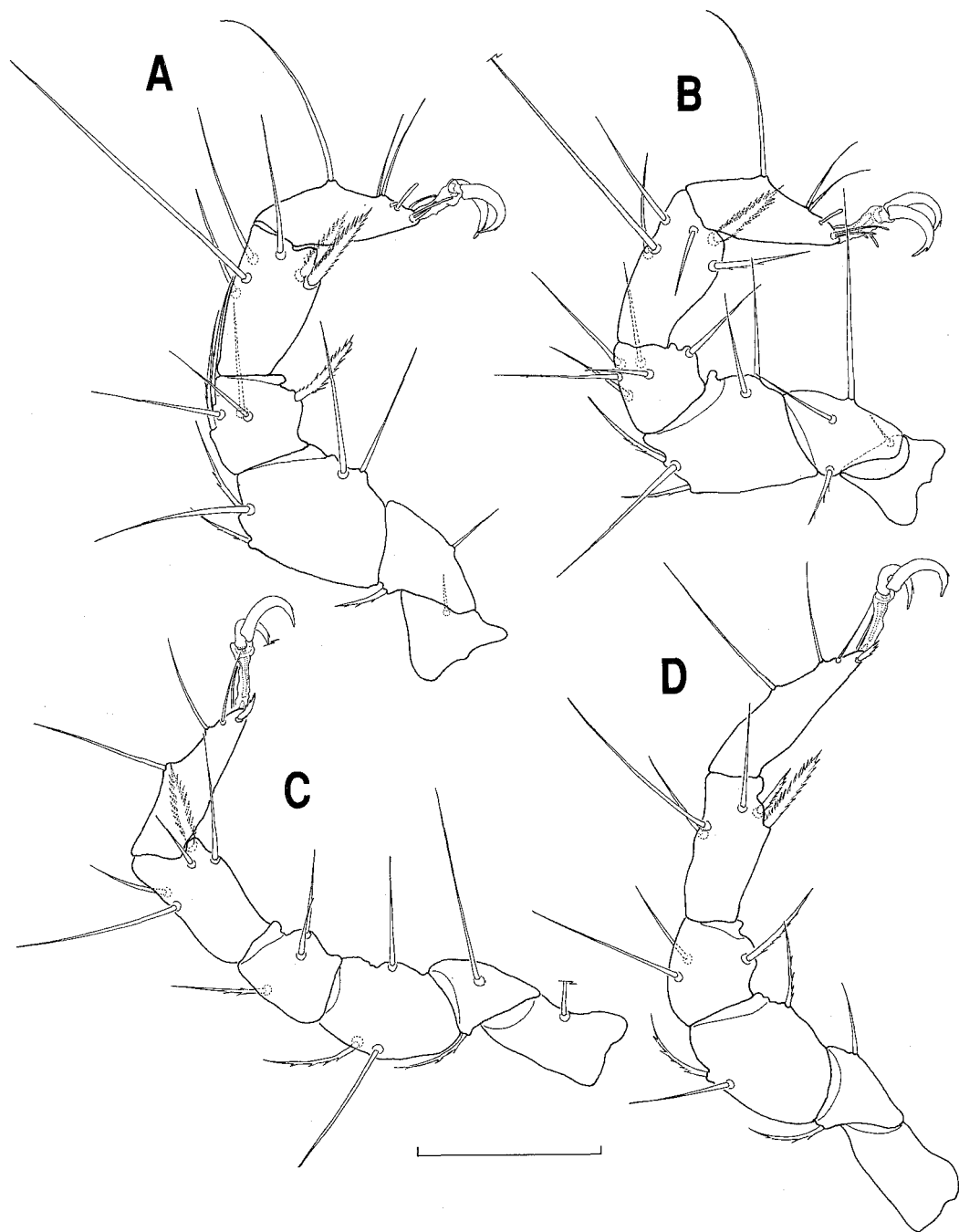


Fig. 60. *Rhombognathus tenuiformis* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, leg I (R); B, leg II (R); C, leg III (L); D, leg IV (L). Scale bar=100 μ m.

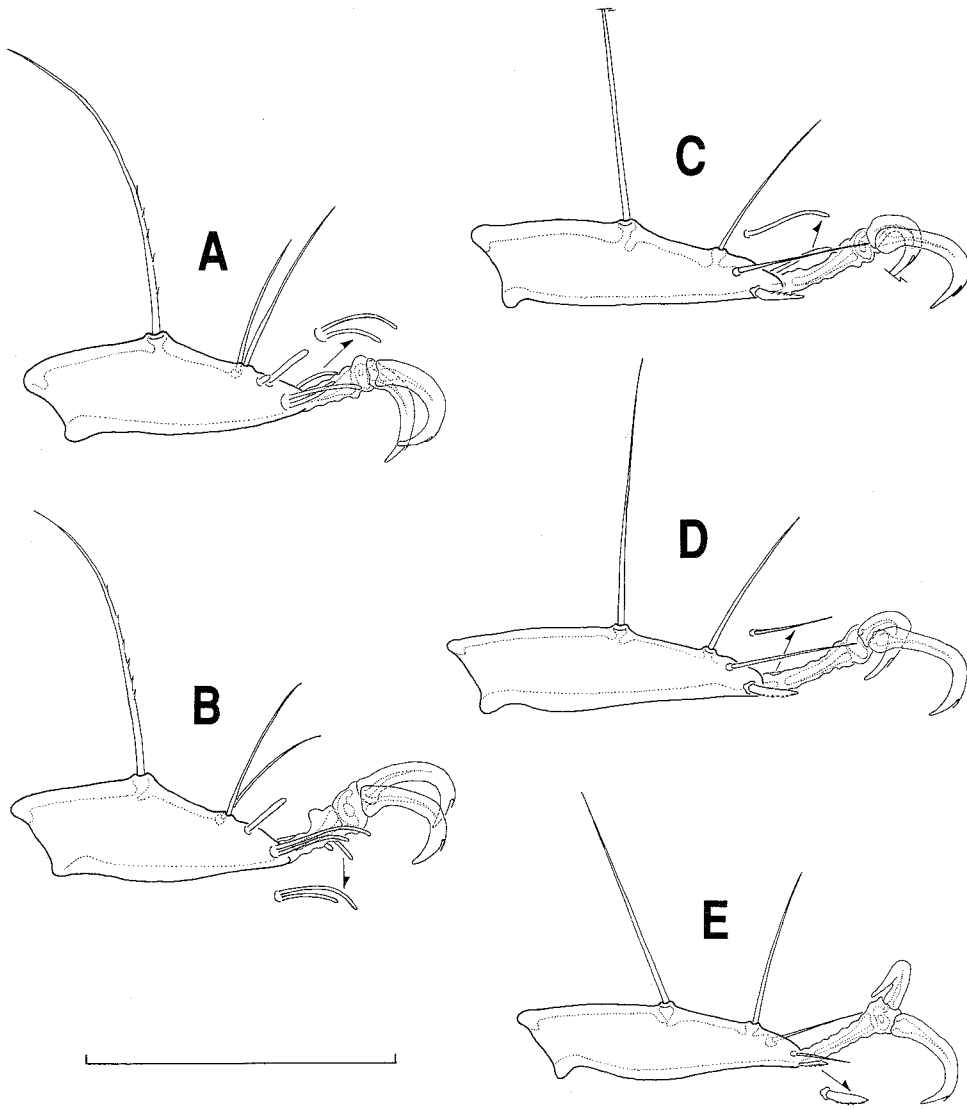


Fig. 61. *Rhombognathus tenuiformis* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, tarsus I (R); B, tarsus II (R); C, tarsus III (L); D, tarsus IV (L). Male (allotype). E, tarsus IV (R). Scale bar = 50 μ m.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 59E) shortly incised laterally with membranous cuticle, bearing 24 branched perigenital setae on each side of genital foramen as arranged in Fig. 59E. Genital foramen 36 μ m long, 18 μ m wide. Subgenital setae two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Genital acetabula three pairs. Spermatophorotype (cf. Fig. 59E) 50 μ m long, 50 μ m wide, rhombic.

Tarsus IV (Fig. 61E) same as that in the female.

Morphological variation and abnormality

The size range of the idiosoma, gnathosoma, and legs I-IV as follows.

Female (n=6). Idiosoma-length: 288–352 μm , -width: 140–192 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 64–68 μm , -width: 56–64 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 170–176 μm ; leg II, 160–178 μm ; leg III, 176–188 μm ; leg IV, 178–188 μm .

Male (n=3). Idiosoma-length: 260–280 μm , -width: 120–132 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 56–64 μm , -width: 52–58 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 158–172 μm ; leg II, 152–164 μm ; leg III, 158–166 μm ; leg IV, 152–168 μm .

The leg chaetotaxy varies among adult specimens (n=9) as follows: Trochanters I–IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I–IV, 2-3-2-2; telofemora I–IV, (5,6)–(5,6)–(3,4)–3; genua I–IV, 6–(5,6)–3-3; tibiae I–IV, 6–(5,6)–5–(4,5).

The number of the perigenital setae on each side of the genital foramen varies from 35 to 45 in the female, 22 to 24 in the male.

Remarks

Rhombognathus tenuiformis is characterized by 1) very weakly sclerotized dorsal plates, 2) the female with three ventral, and the male with two ventral plates, and 3) tarsus III with only three dorsal setae.

The majority of *Rhombognathus* species have four dorsal setae on tarsus III, and only *R. hirtellus* Bartsch, 1992 has been so far known as an unique species which has three setae on tarsus III. *R. tenuiformis* is the second species characterized by this unique setation of tarsus III. The present species is, however, easily discernible from *R. hirtellus* by the possession of separated ventral plates.

R. tenuiformis has considerably slender body and weakly sclerotized plates. Arenicolous halacarids, e.g. *Anomalohalacarus*, *Arenihalacarus*, *Australacarus*, and *Halacaroides* usually have the similar condition in body shape and idiosomal plates. Such the characteristics might be acquired in the evolution of halacarids for an adaptation to the interstitial environment.

The specific epithet is derived from the tenuous form of the body.

Habitat—Intertidal zone: Coarse sandy sediment.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Oshoro.

Rhombognathus teurinus sp. nov.

[Japanese name: Teuri-kaisoudani]

(Figs. 62–65)

Type series. Holotype: Female, coarse shelly sand at a depth of 10–20 m, subtidal, Teuri Isl., Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido, 18.ii.1989, H. Abé coll. Allotype: Male, data same as the holotype.

Paratypes: 4 females, 4 males and 4 tritonymphs, data same as the holotype.

Female (holotype)

Idiosoma 320 μm long, 192 μm wide. Color in life dark green.

Dorsum (Fig. 62A): Dorsal plate uniformly ornamented with reticulated panels (Fig. 62C), and partly with fine canaliculi. AD and PD separated by interval less than AD-length. AD 78 μm long, 98 μm wide, truncated posteriorly, ornamented with distinct areolation posteriorly, and with a dorsal pore near each lateral margin. OC 92 μm long, extending anteriorly to level of posterior margin of AD, reaching posteriorly at level of insertion of leg III, furnished with two small corneae and two polygonal pores, bearing one tiny pore-like structure on lateral margin, one maze-like subsurface pore medially to corneae, and two and three tiny subsurface pores near each posteromedial margin respectively. Areolation indistinct. PD 198 μm long, 124 μm wide, furnished with a small subsurface pore on anterolateral margin, and with dorsal pore on posterior margin on each side. Costae absent.

Chaetotaxy of dorsal region: Dorsal setae short. Setae ds-i on AD; ds-ii and ds-iii each

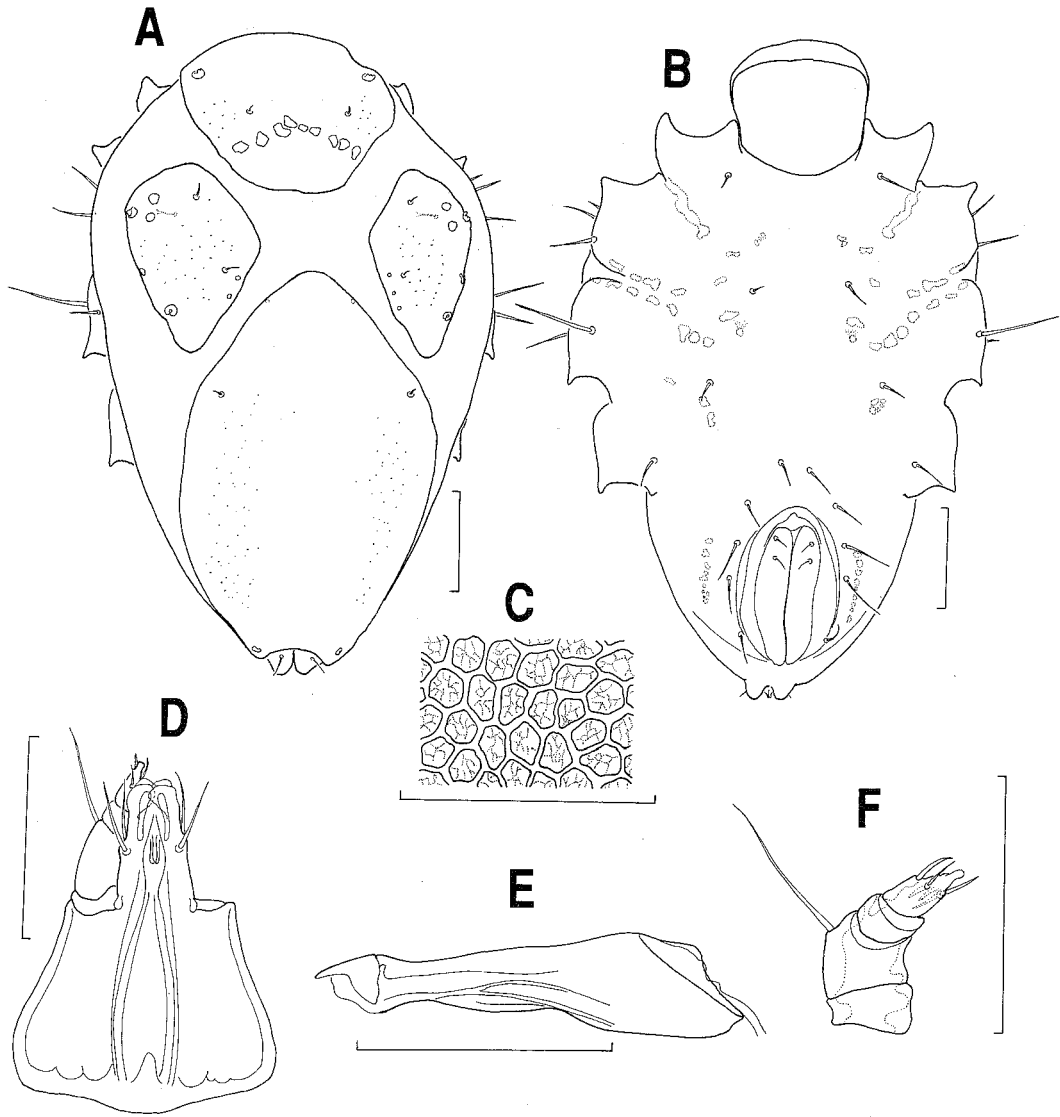


Fig. 62. *Rhombognathus teurinus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, idiosoma (Ds); B, idiosoma (Vr); C, panels on PD; D, gnathosoma (Vr) (left palp omitted); E, chelicera (R); F, palp (R). Scale bars=50 μ m.

on OC; ds-iv on PD near anterolateral margin. Setae ds-v absent.

Venter (Fig. 62B): Epimeral and genitoanal plates fused to form a single plate. Ventral plates are entirely reticulated with faint panels. Epimeral-region furnished with several subsurface pores medially, and with epimeral pore between insertions of leg I and leg II on each side, faintly incised laterally with membranous cuticle bordering several subsurface pores between insertions of leg II and leg III.

Chaetotaxy of epimeral region: Setae aes-i located posteriorly to camerostome; aes-ii-lat placed at lateral margin; aes-ii-v placed most medially at level of lateral incision;

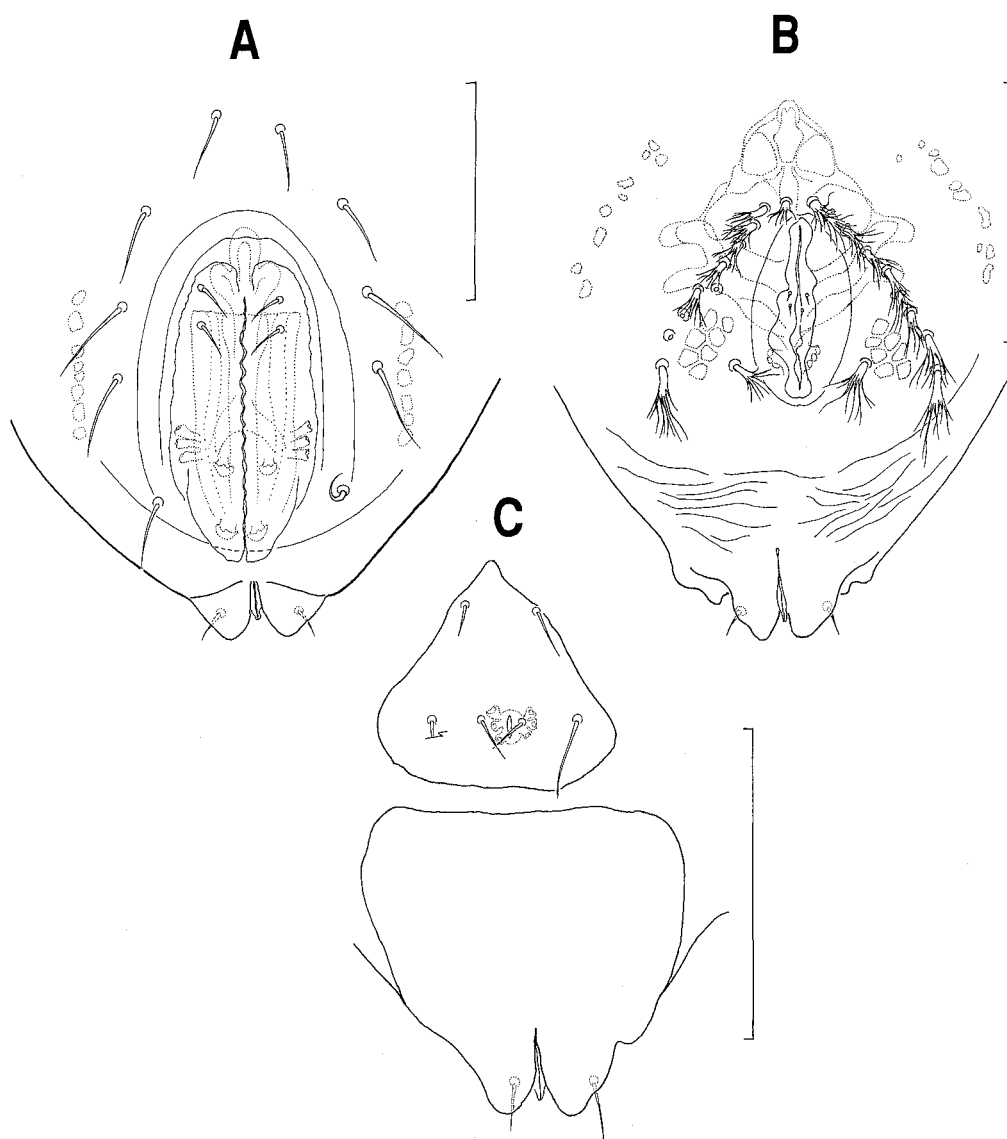


Fig. 63. *Rhombognathus teurinus* sp. nov., genitoanal regions. A, female (holotype); B, male (allotype); C, tritonymph (paratype). Scale bars=50 μ m.

aes-ii-adj located on dorsolateral margins, each consisting of one or two setae; pes-iii-lat placed dorsally on posterior epimeral region; pes-iii-v near lateral margins; pes-iv-a placed medially at level of insertion of leg III; pes-iv-p located at level anterior to insertion of leg IV; pes-iii-adj absent.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 63A): Genitoanal region without distinct lateral incisions. Genital foramen 72 μ m long, 44 μ m wide, occupying from level posterior to insertion of leg IV to level anterior to anal foramen. Genital sclerites band-like, with three pairs of internal genital acetabula. Spermatheca unclear.

Chaetotaxy of genitoanal region: Five pairs of filiform perigenital setae located at each

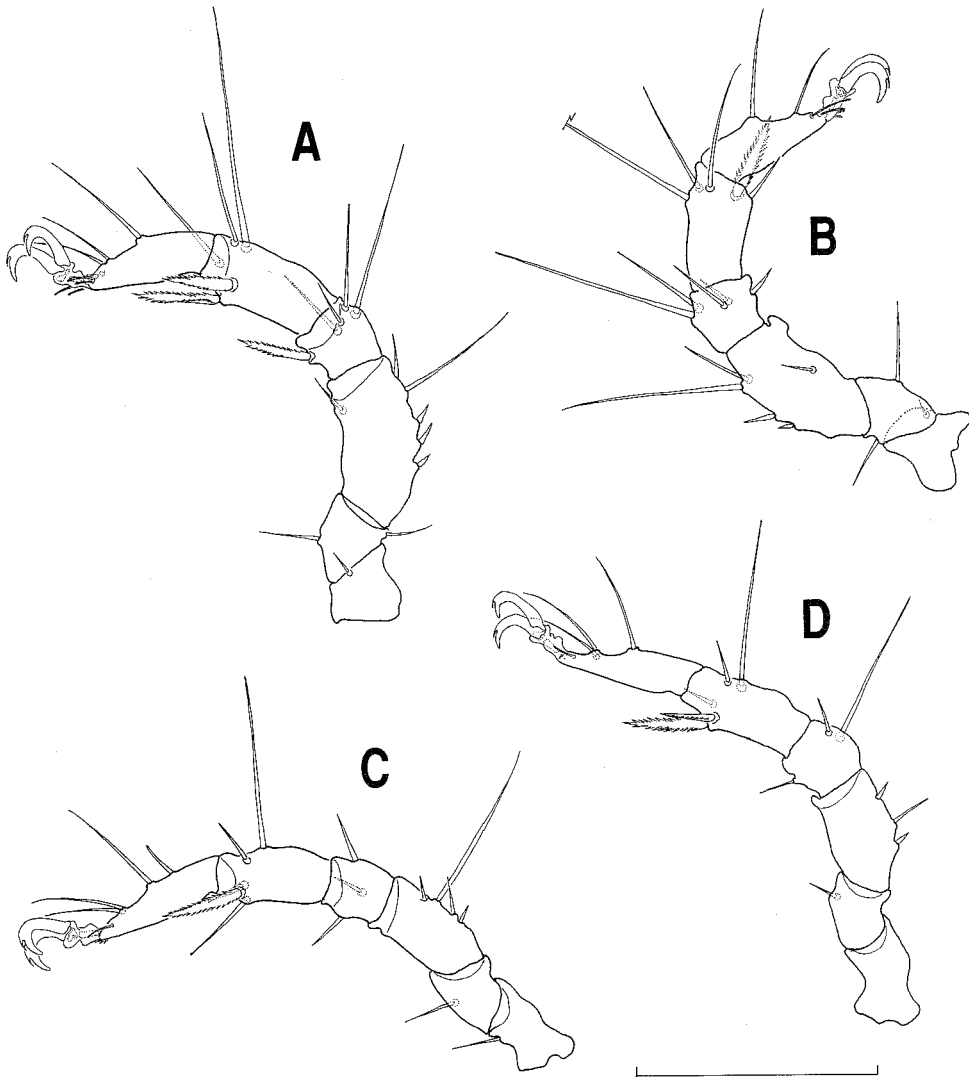


Fig. 64. *Rhombognathus teurinus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, leg I (R); B, leg II (R); C, leg III (L); D, leg IV (L). Scale bar = 100 μ m.

side of genital foramen as arranged in Fig. 63A. Subgenital setae filiform; two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Adanal setae placed on anal papilla dorsoproximally.

Gnathosoma (Fig. 62D): 80 μ m long, 64 μ m wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.25. Base, length/width 1.30. Rostrum 30 μ m long, nearly rectangular, furnished with membranous terminal lamellae. Rostral setae two pairs as follows: Proximal pair long and robust, at swollen point; distal pair short, at just anterior to proximal pair. Chelicera (Fig. 62E) with basal segment 68 μ m long, and movable digit 12 μ m long, without clear denticles along dorsal edge. Fixed digit extending distally to mid level of movable digit. Palp (Fig. 62F) 42 μ m long; P-1 short and cylindrical; P-2 longest, with a long filiform seta distidorsally; P-3 short and cylindrical; P-4 conical, with two filiform, and one blade-like setae.

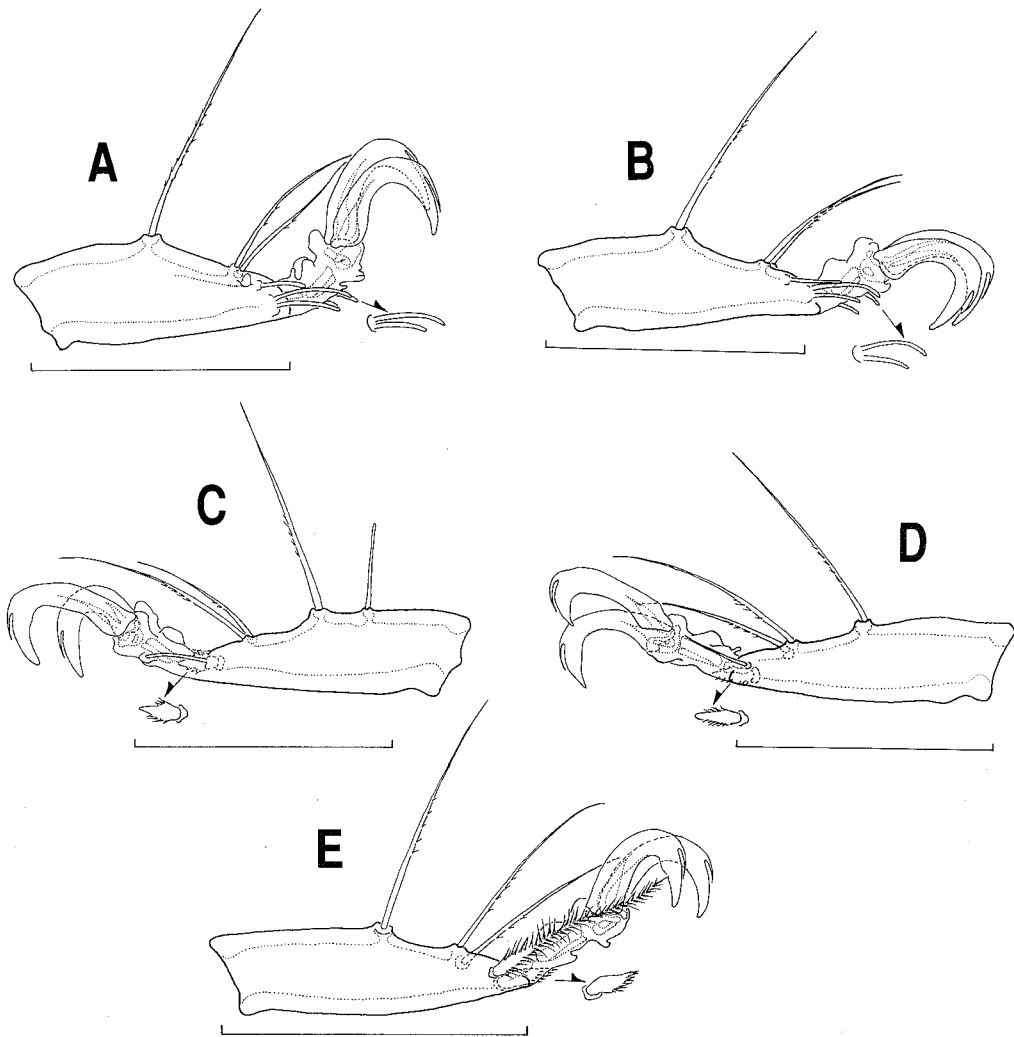


Fig. 65. *Rhombognathus teurinus* sp. nov., female (holotype). A, tarsus I (R); B, tarsus II (R); C, tarsus III (L); D, tarsus IV (L). Male (allotype). E, tarsus IV (R). Scale bar = 50 μ m.

intermediately.

Legs (Figs. 64A-D): Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 216, 210, 210, 220 μ m respectively. Ornamentation indistinct. Lateral claw with two or three long delicate teeth.

Leg chaetotaxy as follows: Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-1-1; telofemora I-IV, 6-5-4-3; genua I-IV, 5-5-3-3; tibiae I-IV, 5-5-5-5. As for large bipectinate setae: Genua I-IV, 1-0-0-0; tibiae I-IV, 2-1-1-2 (one seta is less pectinated). Tarsus I (Fig. 65A) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, one famulus, and four parambulacral setae (paired doublet eupathidia). Solenidion long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Famulus papilliform with fine canaliculus at just proximally to solenidion. Tarsus II (Fig. 65B) with three dorsal setae, one solenidion, and four parambulacral setae. Solenidion long bacilliform on posterodorsal surface of claw fossa. Tarsus III (Fig. 65C) with four dorsal setae and two parambulacral setae (one single eupathidium on posterior surface,

one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface). Tarsus IV (Fig. 65D) with three dorsal setae (one long faintly plumose seta on basal claw fossa, two weakly plumose seta on distal claw fossa) and two parambulacral setae (one filiform euphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Male (allotype)

Idiosoma 288 μm long, 148 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.24, resembling the female in essential respects except for character states of genitoanal region and chaetotaxy of tarsus IV.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 63B) furnished with a series of polygonal subsurface pores on each side of genital foramen, bearing 10 and 11 branched perigenital setae on each side of the foramen as arranged in Fig. 63B. Genital foramen 36 μm long, 16 μm wide. Subgenital setae two pairs on genital sclerites, arranged 2-0. Genital acetabula three pairs. Spermatophorotype (cf. Fig. 63B) 46 μm long, 46 μm wide, rhombic in form.

Tarsus IV (Fig. 65E) furnished with three dorsal setae (one long faintly plumose seta on basal claw fossa, two weakly plumose seta on distal claw fossa) and two parambulacral setae (one long plumose proeuphathidium on posterior surface, one scaliform proeuphathidium on anterior surface).

Tritonymph (paratype)

Idiosoma 232 μm long, 128 μm wide, gnathosoma-length/idiosoma-length 0.25.

Dorsum: AD 72 μm long, 78 μm wide. PD 110 μm long, 76 μm wide, protruded anteriorly, furnished with one dorsal seta. AD and PD separated by interval less than AD-length. OC 50 μm long.

Venter: AE 74 μm long, 124 μm wide, furnished with one aes-ii-adj on each lateral margin. A pair of small subsurface pores placed on membranous cuticle posteriorly to AE. PE 80 μm long, furnished with several subsurface pores along anteromedial margin. Pes-iii-adj absent.

Genitoanal region (Fig. 63C): Genital plate 34 μm long, 36 μm wide, subtriangular in shape, furnished with two pairs of perigenital, and one pair of subgenital setae. Primordial genital slit with three pairs of internal genital acetabula. Anal plate 32 μm long, nearly truncated anteriorly.

Legs: Length of legs I, II, III, IV = 164, 156, 156, 160 μm respectively. Leg chaetotaxy of trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-1-1; telofemora I-IV, 4-4-3-2; genua I-IV, 5-5-3-3; tibiae I-IV, 5-4-5-5. Distinct bipectinate setae on genua I-IV, 1-0-0-0; tibiae I-IV, 2-1-1-2 (one seta is less pectinated).

Morphological variation and abnormality

The size range of the idiosoma, gnathosoma, and legs I-IV as follows.

Female (n=5). Idiosoma-length: 304-328 μm , -width: 172-192 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 74-80 μm , -width: 56-64 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 208-232 μm ; leg II, 210-214 μm ; leg III, 200-212 μm ; leg IV, 200-222 μm .

Male (n=5). Idiosoma-length: 284-308 μm , -width: 148-180 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 68-74 μm , -width: 50-60 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 198-222 μm ; leg II, 188-210 μm ; leg III, 182-210 μm ; leg IV, 184-212 μm .

Tritonymph (n=4). Idiosoma-length: 232-236 μm , -width: 128-136 μm ; gnathosoma-length: 58-66 μm , -width: 48-54 μm ; leg-length: Leg I, 164-186 μm ; leg II, 136-172 μm ; leg III, 150-168 μm ; leg IV, 146-168 μm .

The leg chaetotaxy varies as follows.

Adult (n=10): Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-1-1; telofemora I-IV, (5,6)-(5,6)-(3,4)-(3,4); genua I-IV, 5-(4,5)-3-(3,4); tibiae I-IV, (5,6)-5-5-(5,6).

Tritonymph (n=4): Trochanters I-IV, 1-1-1-0; basifemora I-IV, 2-2-1-1; telofemora I-IV, 4-4-3-2; genua I-IV, 5-(4,5)-3-3; tibiae I-IV, 5-(4,5)-5-5.

The number of the setae aes-ii-adj varies from one to two. The number of the perigenital setae on each side of the genital foramen varies from five to seven in the female, 10 to 16 in the male. Basilar perigenital setae in the male varies from one to three.

Remarks

Among *Rhombognathus* species characterized by having five perigenital setae in the female, *R. teurinus* closely resembles *R. neptunellus* Bartsch, 1992 in the characteristics of that 1) posteriorly pointed idiosoma, 2) clearly and uniformly reticulated dorsal plates, 3) posterior dorsal plate with one pair of dorsal setae, 4) the number and the arrangement of perigenital setae in adults, 5) almost parallel-sided rostrum, 6) lateral claw with a long accessory process bearing two or three teeth. But, *R. teurinus* is discernible from *R. neptunellus* by the following characters (corresponding condition in the latter species in parentheses): 1) anterior dorsal plate not longer than wide (clearly longer than wide), 2) all dorsal setae short (setae ds-i distinctly stronger than the other setae), 3) anterior margin of posterior dorsal plate strongly protruded (rounded), 4) adanal setae placed dorsally on anal papilla (placed laterally), 5) telofemora of legs III and IV without ventral setae, and genua I to IV with 1-0-0-0 bipectinate setae (telofemora of legs III and IV with ventral setae, and genua I-IV without bipectinate setae). *R. teurinus* and *R. neptunellus* also differ in body size: *R. teurinus*, 304-328 μm in the female, 284-308 μm in the male; *R. neptunellus*, 213-252 μm in the female, 222 μm in the male. The size range, however, is based only on three females and single male in *R. neptunellus*. Therefore, this difference is possibly attributable to the sampling errors due to the small sample size.

R. teurinus is also similar to *R. semiarmatus* Bartsch, 1983, and *R. sinensis* Bartsch, 1990. But, *R. teurinus* is discernible from *R. semiarmatus* by the clearly reticulated dorsal plates, telofemora I to IV with 1/(4, 5), 1/(4, 5), 0/(3, 4), 0/(3, 4) ventral/dorsal setae, and the presence of a large bipectinate seta on the genu of leg I, and from *R. sinensis* by the absence of adjunctive setae on posterior epimeral plate, accessory process with long delicate two or three teeth, and the presence of a large bipectinate seta on the genu of leg I.

R. teurinus was found only from the sandy sediment at subtidal zone, and is considered to be an arenicolous dweller.

The specific epithet is derived from the type locality "Teuri Island".

Habitat—Subtidal zone: Coarse shelly sand at a depth of 10-20 m.

Distribution in Hokkaido—Teuri Island.

2. Regional Distribution Pattern and Substrate Preference of the Rhombognathines in Hokkaido

There have been a number of studies on the local distribution of halacarid mites (Lohmann, 1889; Viets, 1927a, 1927b; Newell, 1947; Moore, 1973; Bartsch & Schmidt, 1979). Several studies were also carried out for the purpose of examining faunal association between halacarids and particular types of substrates (cf. Colman, 1939; Wieser, 1952; Bartsch, 1974a, 1978, 1979b, 1982, 1989). Besides, Pugh & King (1985) and Pugh & Bartsch (1993) investigated the association of halacarids with algal species by using Yates' corrected Chi-squared analysis (Yates, 1934), and concluded that several British rhombognathines were associated with particular species of algae.

These investigations, however, dealt with the North Atlantic species, and no comprehensive ecological survey has been carried out in the Pacific Ocean region. In this section, the distribution of the rhombognathines in Hokkaido with respect to the following two kinds of

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Table 4. Chi-square decomposition of substrate-species correspondence.

Chi-squares	Percents
75.1222	19.05
68.0032	17.24
51.2398	12.99
43.3427	10.99
35.3418	8.96
27.5526	6.99
22.9937	5.83
18.6235	4.72
14.3342	3.63
12.8466	3.26
9.5434	2.42
8.3284	2.11
4.3200	1.10
2.7585	0.70

environmental variables is examined on the basis of the collecting data described in the previous section: The first variable I chose is localities that are influenced by two distinct sea currents. The coasts of Hokkaido are mainly influenced by two major sea currents: Kuroshio (subtropical water) and Oyashio (subarctic water). The coast of the Japan Sea side of Hokkaido is mainly influenced by the warmer Kuroshio, and the other coasts are by the colder Oyashio all the year round. The second variable is substrates that offer space and food materials for halacarids.

A regional distribution pattern and occurrence of rhombognathines on particular substrates are given as locality-species and substrate-species matrices respectively (Tables 2 & 3). No clear association of rhombognathines with localities influenced by two major sea currents is detected from the distribution pattern of the mites in Hokkaido (Table 2). Likewise, distinct association between rhombognathines and particular substrates is not recognized from the occurrence pattern of the mites on various substrates in Hokkaido (Table 3).

There is a possibility that the present result on the regional distribution is highly influenced by the sampling frequency. The highest number of species is observed in Oshoro (locality No. 17) at which the most intensive sample-collecting has been carried out. The occurrence of rare species will increase as more sampling effort is given to the other localities. Therefore, the further analysis is made only on substrate preferences but not on the locality-species relationship.

The correspondence for 35 substrates and 16 species are analyzed to examine whether substrate preferences exist in the rhombognathines in Hokkaido. The correspondence analysis (Benzécri, 1973, 1992) is performed using PROC CORRESP in SAS (SAS Institute, 1990) at the Hokkaido University Computing Center, Sapporo.

The analysis of correspondence supports above mentioned interpretation of substrate-species relationship. No clear association is detected between particular substrates and rhombognathines in Hokkaido. The coordinates consisting of the first two axes contribute only 36.29% of the total variance of the corresponding character distribution (Table 4).

My attempt for detection of substrate preferences of rhombognathine mites in Hokkaido came to naught in the present study. Contrary to the present result, however, significant positive correlation was recognized in halacarids and particular species of algae on British rocky shores (Pugh & King, 1985) and on the coast of South Georgia (Pugh & Bartsch, 1993).

In these investigations, correlation between halacarids and substrates was analyzed on the basis of quantitative data. Failure to detect significant correlation between the rhombognathines and substrates in Hokkaido might be due to that the present analysis was based only on qualitative data.

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